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LD151437 [Editorial Report]

OPEC Agreement

An OPEC press release announced that all OPEC member countries except Iraq have agreed to hold the overall production level at 15.06 mb/d during the first half of 1988, with national quotas distributed in accordance with the previous agreement for the third quarter of 1987. The statement, which was carried by OPECNA, did not specify any price levels but it stressed the need for member countries to make further efforts on production and prices to strengthen market stability. OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman subsequently told AFP that there was no need to specify the benchmark price because it remains the same, and the agency added that other delegates viewed this as an "elegant way" of glossing over Arab-Iranian differences on pricing policy for 1988.

Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili informed reporters in Vienna that Iranian delegates had signed the OPEC agreement "not because they wholly approved of it, but rather as a gesture of yielding to the verdict of the majority," according to IRNA. In Tehran, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said he had left the OPEC session "in protest," IRNA noted, but he added that Iranian authorities decided to sign the OPEC agreement because Iran "has always worked for unity and strengthening of the organization."

Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi stressed that Iran was "isolated" at the Vienna meeting and was unable to achieve its demands, INA reported. He praised other OPEC countries for not setting a quota for Iraq, adding that most of the OPEC states were ready to agree to Iraq's demand for a quota equal to that of Iran.

Gulf War

Iranian gunboats attacked the Greek tanker "Ariadne" near the Strait of Hormuz 15 December, Athens radio reported, adding that there were no casualties aboard the vessel. Tehran radio mentioned the attack by "gunboats," noting that it occurred when the tanker was moving out of Gulf waters loaded with Saudi Arabian oil.

Iranian jets raided Iraqi military targets in heights overlooking Sumar the previous day, according to IRNA.

Iran

In the wake of rumors that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni is ill, Tehran radio reported that Khomeyni received various guests in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran 15 December, noting that at the end of the meeting he "responded to the sentiments of those present." Local residents cited by AFP confirmed that the situation at Khomeyni's residence seemed normal. A spokesman for Khomeyni maintained that the Imam's health is "better than ever," according to Vienna's KURIER, which noted that the rumors of his illness were sparked off by Oil Minister Aqazadeh's sudden departure from the OPEC meeting.

Saudi Criticism of Iran

At a meeting chaired by King Fahd, the Saudi Council of Ministers heard reports on the "campaigns of intrigue and confusion which the Iranian media continue to launch against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the information minister noted in a statement reported by SPA. He added that the Council condemned Iran's "hostile and rancorous methods" and the accusations which Iranian leaders "rehash night and day while ignoring the serious crimes they committed in holy Mecca."

Israel

Disturbances continued in the Gaza Strip 15 December, and the IDF killed 1 rioter and wounded 11 after coming under attack in Khan Yunus, Jerusalem radio reported. A youth from Khan Yunus was also shot dead by the IDF the previous day, the radio disclosed, and Israeli soldiers also wounded four other people during disturbances in the area. A security forces investigation concluded that the soldiers acted according to regulations during the incidents on 14 December, the radio noted.

In remarks reported by Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir accused the Labor Party of adopting a "defeatist" policy toward the Arabs, asserting that the Labor leaders are waving the "banner of peace" as a "ploy" to "grab and hang on to exclusive rule in Israel." Shamir subsequently described U.S. official Richard Murphy's criticism of Israeli policy in the territories as a U.S. "contribution" to the Arab world to "compensate for the aid extended to the Arabs by the Soviet Union," IDF radio reported. In Washington, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin responded to Murphy's criticism of Israel's security measures by telling Jerusalem radio that Israel will continue to use all means within the limits of its laws to keep law and fight terrorism, while also seeking to improve the standard of life of the Palestinians there. Rabin had earlier signed a memorandum on cooperation with the U.S. secretary of defense, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Kan'an Transfer—An Arab paper published in Cyprus reported that Syria has transferred Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an from its intelligence command in Lebanon to another post, according to Jerusalem radio.

Stingers—Hizballah has obtained Stinger missiles from Iran and is storing them in the southern suburb of Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Syria-Iraq

Radio Monte Carlo reported that Syria and Iraq have resumed telephone links following a 7-year break. Syrian civil aviation officials have visited Baghdad to discuss the resumption of flights between the two countries, the radio added.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Unity—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told Arab opposition parties at their meeting in Tripoli that they should adopt Arab unity in their political programs without having to decide details of how to implement it. Noting his own proposal for an Arab union comprised of "presidents, kings, and sultans," Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that if the unity project is to succeed it should avoid "shaking the regional situation" and must not interfere in the internal affairs of individual Arab states. In his remarks, which were broadcast by Tripoli television, the Libyan leader also urged the opposition parties to force their governments to open training camps for the Palestinian resistance. The Israelis will then have to attack the whole Arab homeland if they want to attack countries that train Palestinian fedayeen, he said.

Defense Precautions—The UAE's AL-ITTIHAD stated that Libya has taken defensive measures in light of reports that Israel may raid a target in Libya "on the pretext" of hitting PFLP-GC centers, according to WAKH.

Sudan

The SPLA's clandestine radio announced that SPLA units captured two Sudanese Army garrisons between Qaysan and Al-Damazin 13 December, inflicting "very heavy casualties." The radio also reported that SPLA leader John Garang de Mabior ordered his forces in two war zones to begin a "general offensive" 14 December.

Palestinian Affairs

Soviet Envoy To Brief 'Arafat on Summit

JN141443 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (WAKH)—The WAKH correspondent in Baghdad has learned that the Soviet leadership has decided to send a special envoy to inform PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of the results of the meetings held between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington last week. Reliable Palestinian sources expect that 'Arafat, who is currently in Baghdad, will receive the Soviet envoy in the next few hours. It is known that the Soviet leadership had sent a Soviet envoy, who arrived in Baghdad last night, to brief the Iraqi leadership on the results of the Washington summit, particularly those related to the Gulf war.

'Arafat on 'Uprising,' Israeli Preparations

JN141853 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the number of Palestinian martyrs who fell in the occupied territories over the past 8 days has risen to 30 civilians, mostly young people. 'Arafat told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that the recent reports he received at noon today say the number of wounded [word indistinct] 300 persons in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. 'Arafat said the upheaval in all the cities and camps in the occupied territories is escalating in spite of the viciousness of the Israeli occupation forces and the bullets they fire at the demonstrators.

'Arafat, who was speaking from his headquarters in Baghdad, said that most of the Palestinian cities are on a general strike and that the sons of the Palestinian people are demonstrating in many of these cities to protest the crimes by the Israeli authorities. He added that they are facing the Israeli forces' bullets unarmed. The Palestinian Revolution Forces commander in chief reported that more than 50 percent of the Israeli Army is confronting the current popular upheaval. He said that the Israeli forces are now using tanks, machineguns, and poisonous gas to confront the Palestinian masses in Gaza and Khan Yunus where one 25-year-old Palestinian was martyred this morning. He added that five others were wounded in Rafah and that the Israeli campaign of oppression includes Jerusalem and all the West Bank cites.

The reports received by the headquarters of the PLO Executive Committee chairman pointed out that the Israeli occupation authorities confiscated local newspapers in the cities of Ramallah and Al-Birah today after the two cities had declared a comprehensive student and commercial strike. These reports also said that the student demonstrators clashed with soldiers in Hebron. The clashes prompted the occupation authorities to dispatch large forces which besieged the city after they had fired bullets and thrown tear gas at the demonstrators. The student demonstrators threw two incendiary bombs at an Israeli truck.

'Arafat emphasized that this information does not include all chapters of the uprising but only reflects the reports which could be sent from the occupied homeland. He expressed the belief that the number of martyrs and wounded is more than the figures he had announced. He said the Zionist occupation forces have completed their concentrations, estimated at 40,000-60,000 soldiers, in preparation for an offensive in southern Lebanon. 'Arafat also said that he had received information in the past few hours affirming that Israel has sent a 3,000-man special force, operating under the name "Golani Brigade," to southern Lebanon in preparation for such an offensive. Israel has prepared large numbers of helicopter gunships. This indicates that the Israeli forces will carry out landing operations in various places.

'Arafat emphasized that all Palestinians in the camps, as well as the allies in southern Lebanon, are now in a state of maximum preparedness to confront all possibilities. Concluding his statement, he renewed his confidence in the possibility of the UN Security Council issuing a resolution condemning Israel. He pointed out that his contacts affirm this expectation unless the United States vetoes such a resolution.

PLO's Qaddumi, Klibi on West Bank Unrest

JN142148 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1452 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Amman, 14 Dec (INA)—Demonstrations were renewed in various areas of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip today as part of the popular uprising which the occupied territories have been witnessing for the past 6 days. [passage omitted]

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has said that the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories is a message to the international community that Palestinian peace is the key to world peace. In a statement to the INA correspondent in Tunis, Qaddumi also asserted that this uprising affirms now more than ever before that our people are determined to confront the occupiers regardless of repression and sacrifices. He said the Palestinian people are challenging the Zionist occupation's policy in the Arab territories, which is more than 20 years old. Qaddumi asserted that this uprising will continue and escalate despite the acts of repression and persecution. He urged the UN Security Council, the United Nations, and the forces which love peace and justice to assume their responsibilities to protect the Palestinian people and to stop the Palestinian bloodshed there.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has urged the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and its permanent members to intervene to compel the Zionist entity to stop its savage actions against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

In a statement distributed by the Arab League here today, Klibi appealed to the UN secretary general to continue his efforts to end the acts of persecution and the killings by the Zionist occupation authorities. He noted that the repressive Zionist actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have become more serious in the past few days. These actions violate the principles of the Geneva Convention and are a challenge to the entire international community, as well as to the United Nations and its Charter and resolutions, he said. He added that the uprising in the occupied Arab territories clearly affirms the deep Arab rejection of occupation, as well as the extent of the Palestinian people's adherence to their inalienable national rights.

Israeli Military Bus Attacked in Jerusalem

JN142112 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1818 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Communique by a military spokmesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Our great Palestinian people's uprising has been continuing and escalating in the face of terrorism, occupation, and the Zionist tools of repression and death for the 6th consecutive day in all parts of the occupied homeland. To support this uprising, our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland used incendiary grenades to attack a large Zionist military bus while it was passing through one of the streets of occupied Jerusalem late last night. Fire broke out in the bus and several Zionist personnel sustained various wounds as a result. The Zionist enemy forces immediately launched a large-scale search operation and arrested over 22 Palestinian citizens. Our heroic revolutionaries returned safely to base.

Revolution until victory.

OPEC Affairs

Further on Vienna Ministerial Meeting

Iraq Not To Sign Agreement

JN141937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, 14 Dec (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim has stated that his country will not sign the agreement on production and quota distribution to be concluded among OPEC members later today. This agreement is an extension of the one that was in force during the second half of 1987.

In a statement prior to his departure from Vienna today, the Iraqi oil minister told the INA correspondent that ambiguity and conflicting stands had prevailed at the current OPEC meetings, particularly the Iranian stand. The Iraqi oil minister said that the Iranian delegation has failed to achieve any of the demands it made before and during the conference. Not all the member countries had responded to these demands and the Iranian delegation felt isolated, he added.

The Iraqi oil minister praised the action taken by the other OPEC countries when they deleted the clause on Iraq's quota from the current agreement, a clause which had existed in the previous agreement, and when they set production ceilings only for the signatories to the current agreement. He stated: Iraq has constantly and explicitly rejected the quota set for it in December 1981. He added that Iraq had reiterated this rejection at last June's meeting as well. He noted that most of the countries were ready to allot Iraq a quota equal to that of Iran.

The Iraqi oil minister stated that Iraq has abided by the official oil prices and has cooperated with OPEC members in this respect in order to maintain prices at their current level to serve all countries.

The ordinary OPEC conference began in Vienna last Wednesday.

Accord To Steady Prices

AU150827 Paris AFP in English 0229 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec 15 (AFP)—Crude oil prices will "stabilize around 18 dollars" as a result of a decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to extend its current pricing and production pact for the first half of 1988, OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman asserted here early Tuesday.

"If the agreement sticks, we will at least maintain our (oil) revenues," he told a news conference.

Capping six days of strenuous bargaining in the shadow of the escalating Gulf war, twelve of the 13 OPEC countries, including Iran and excluding Iraq, agreed to extend their current national output quotas. Iran endorsed the extension during a nearly four-hour final session that wound up just before midnight (2400 GMT) Monday, after its oil minister flew to Tehran earlier in the day for last-minute consultations with his government.

Iraq again opted out of the year-old scheme established to back up a benchmark price of 18 dollars a barrel for OPEC crudes.

The official communique released at the end of OPEC's year-end conference recognized that member countries must make "further efforts" on production and price performance—meaning they must cease producing over their quotas and undercutting agreed official prices—in order to "further strengthen market stability."

The communique said the ministers agreed "that the production levels of all member countries, with the exception of Iraq, will be 15.06 million barrels a day during the first half of 1988."

This would be "distributed into national production levels in the same manner as laid down in the December 1986 agreement" for the final quarters of this year.

The statement made no specific reference to the 18 dollar benchmark price, based on an average of a "basket" of key OPEC crudes.

Much of the argument between Iran and the Gulf states was over the reference price.

Iran pressed for an increase to at least 20 dollars a barrel to offset the dollar's sharp depreciation.

Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbours held out for an unchanged benchmark.

Mr. Lukman told AFP there was "no need to specify" the price in the communique because it remained the same.

Other delegates acknowledged that this was an "elegant way" of glossing over Arab-Iranian differences over whether the price should be maintained unchanged until the end of 1988 as advocated by Saudi Arabia or only for six months, as the Iranians called for.

Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Hisham Nazir said he was "happy" with the agreement.

OPEC ministers also reaffirmed the mandate of a five-member ministerial committee set up to "monitor the price evolution in relation to the existing official OPEC price."

The panel consists of the ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

"If we discover violation of the quotas we'll convene an extraordinary meeting," Mr Lukman said told his news conference.

He said violators of the price and production agreement had given the conference "a pledge" to "stick to their quotas."

Venezuela's Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said the agreement was the best OPEC could achieve given "the present political circumstances."

In a further direct reference to the Gulf war he said the ministers had been "negotiating between the parties in conflict."

Press Release on Meeting

LD150821 Vienna OPECNA in English 2347 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, 14 Dec. 87 (OPECNA)—At the conclusion here today of the 82nd meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the following press release was issued:

82nd Meeting of the OPEC Conference

Vienna, Austria, 9th-14th December, 1987

The 82nd meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was held in Vienna, Austria, from December 9 to 14, 1987.

The conference unanimously re-elected as its president His Excellency Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, minister of petroleum resources of Nigeria and head of its delegation. His Excellency Dr. Fernando Santos-Alvite, minister of energy and mines of Ecuador and head of its delegation, was unanimously elected alternate president.

The conference reviewed and discussed the reports of the committee of three ministers to visit member countries and the committee of five ministers to monitor the price evolution, formed by the 81st meeting of the conference, the ministerial monitoring committee and the economic commission board, as well as the high-level marketing representatives. The conference observed the efforts made by the organization to achieve a fair degree of price stability throughout the year 1987 and expressed the need for further efforts to be made by member countries on production and price performance with a view to further strengthening market stability. For this purpose, an agreement was reached that the production levels of all member countries, with the exception of Iraq, will be 15.06 mb/d during the first half of 1988, distributed into national production levels in the same manner as laid down in the December 1986 agreement for the third quarter of 1987.

An agreement was also reached to maintain in force the committee composed of their excellencies, the heads of delegation of Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, to monitor the price evolution in the market in relation to the existing OPEC official price, and should the committee observe any significant change in market prices that would affect the price stability, it will immediately call for an extraordinary meeting of the conference, with a view to deciding on the necessary OPEC production level so as to restore the desired price stability.

Member countries, signatories to the agreement, have also decided to re-institute, as soon as practicable, the system of control on production using an external auditor.

The conference expressed its sincere appreciation for the invaluable work undertaken and great efforts made by the committee of three ministers, composed of their excellencies, the heads of delegation of Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela, in visiting all member countries and thanks and gratitude were also expressed to the heads of state and government of member countries for the time given to meet with the committee members.

The conference approved the budget of the organization for the year 1988.

The conference appointed Mr. Ben S. Osuno, governor for Nigeria, to be chairman of the board of governors for the year 1988, and Mr. Abdulla H. Salatt, governor for Qatar, to be alternate chairman for the same period.

The conference deferred the discussion concerning the appointment of the secretary general until further consultations can be made and, in the meantime, asked the president of the conference to continue to supervise the secretariat's work.

The conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Austria and the authorities of the city of Vienna for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

The conference passed resolutions which will be published on 14 January, 1988 after ratification by member countries.

The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened in Vienna, on Wednesday, 8th June, 1988.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Domestic, Arab Issues

JN140932 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
12 Dec 87 p 8

["Text" of interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by AL-ITTIHAD correspondent Lubna Nassar in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Nassar] Your Excellency, a summit meeting is presently being held in Washington between the USSR and the United States to define the future of the world. What are the contents of the message which you sent to Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev?

[Mubarak] The message says: You must agree on these nuclear issues, for world peace depends on it. They made a good start, and Egypt welcomed the agreement the moment it was signed. We issued a statement, welcoming this move because nuclear warheads pose a threat to the entire world.

The message also referred to the Gulf and Middle East issues in the hope that they would be addressed on the agenda. These problems affect the region, and it is in the interest of the world that stability prevails here.

[Nassar] What message will Your Excellency address to the world on this occasion?

[Mubarak] I am not the only person to address a message of peace. All states and peoples who have suffered from wars call for peace. Peace is vital to all peoples and countries throughout the world. Without peace, there will be no development or progress; people will not prosper and their standard of living will not rise; and there will be no stability. Therefore, I appeal to all people in the world who seek peace to support their governments with regard to the ongoing efforts being made to achieve this peace. Without peace, bloodshed will increase and destruction will spread throughout the world. In addition to this, the large increase in population and the exacerbating economic situation call upon us to direct our economy toward peace instead of war in the interest of humanity and future generations.

[Nassar] Your Excellency, in his welcome to Soviet leader Gorbachev, President Reagan said that he hopes to discuss the resolution of some regional disputes with Gorbachev. Does Your Excellency believe that the Middle East problem will be among these disputes?

[Mubarak] I communicated to them the importance of discussing the Middle East problem. President Reagan affirmed in his reply that he will present Middle East issues during the summit. I believe that they will discuss this problem.

[Nassar] Does Your Excellency have any idea what the decision will be; that is to say, if a decision on the Middle East is in fact reached [during the Washington summit]?

[Mubarak] I have no idea what the decision will be. However, we hope that an international conference for peace will convene and that all parties will agree on this. We, as Arabs, must coordinate so that we can go [to the conference] fully ready to discuss our issue and to regain our territory and rights.

[Nassar] Mr President, do you believe that the outcome of the Gulf war will now be determined at the Washington summit?

[Mubarak] I do not think so, for there are differences between the two superpowers over the Gulf war which stem from their interests in the area. However, I do believe that the Gulf war will be discussed at the summit. Arab solidarity will help to determine the outcome of this conflict. I have said this several times. I have also repeatedly maintained that the problems which pose a threat to the Arab world will not be resolved unless the Arabs disregard their differences. Iraq is now fighting Iran, and we hear some who say that Camp David is the cause of the war. What has Camp David got to do with the war?

It is strange but those who make such a claim are in fact helping Iran. We also find that Al-Qadhdhafi in Libya comes out with a different view every day. At times he is reconciled with Iraq, while at other times he abuses Iraq. Sometimes he is at peace with King Husayn, while alternately he says that the king is a traitor. We must rise above such expressions, which should not be part of our political usage.

[Nassar] Mr President, do you believe that the results of the Amman Arab summit can provide a nucleus for a new stage of rallying the Arab ranks?

[Mubarak] I was pleased with the Arab summit. It initiated a dialogue between Syria and Iraq, and it was a gathering where Arab heads of state could meet.

Even if there are differences between two leaders, they meet and resolve such differences. This happens at African and EC summits. For the past 2 years, I have called for an Arab summit. Even if the leaders do not come out with something specific, the mere fact that they meet is bound to help in resolving their differences. That is the best way to approach things when problems begin to multiply: We meet once every 6 months. Suffice it to say that at an African summit, approximately 80-90 percent of the problems are resolved when African leaders meet. Consequently, tension eases. He who has differences and does not attend the meetings does not solve any problems.

[Nassar] How can the Arab summit implement its resolutions?

[Mubarak] It depends on the desire of the states themselves. With regard to Syrian-Iraqi tension, the two sides must be convinced of the need to eliminate such tension and that it is in the interest of the two states to end it.

I have no objection to helping our brothers in Syria in various international spheres, and they also can do the same.

Similarly, Iraq is fighting a war and Syria has relations with Iran. Syria can be a goodwill mediator between Iraq and Iran. We can solve numerous problems through this approach.

[Nassar] Are King Husayn's efforts to bring about Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation continuing?

[Mubarak] King Husayn is current chairman of the Arab summit. He has done good work at the summit and must follow it up so that there can be clear results in the reconciliation of Iraq and Syria and in resolving the problems and differences between them. That is the best guarantee for Arab national security.

King Husayn traveled to Baghdad, Damascus, and then Cairo, and he is following up the matter.

[Nassar] How can we achieve an Arab accord that leads to Arab national security?

[Mubarak] The summit should meet every 6 months rather than every 5 years. Frankly, the more frequent and complicated our problems are, the more essential it becomes to shorten the periods between these summits so that no one will be able to divide our countries.

[Nassar] Egypt considers Gulf security a basic part of its national security. What is Egypt's view of the attacks on Gulf states?

[Mubarak] Arab national security is an indivisible whole. When fighting began between Iraq and Iran, Egypt did not hesitate at all to support Iraq. It will continue to support Iraq. Arab solidarity is the only key to guaranteeing Arab national security. And, I do not mean that type of solidarity conceived by those states that attack us every day. Our relations must be strong and we must maintain the coordination between us under all circumstances.

[Nassar] Mr President, it has been reiterated that you have exerted efforts with Washington and Tel Aviv to prevent Israel from carrying out any aggression against Lebanon and Syria in retaliation for the glider attack on the Israeli military camp. Is this true?

[Mubarak] Yes, we have contacted the United States and Israel to urge Israel not to undertake any reprisal since this would only result in more victims. Let us be logical and find the means to avoid such acts and settle the issue. They should not hamper the international peace conference. I told them that I hope there would be self-restraint.

[Nassar] Has King Husayn offered to arrange a meeting between Egyptian and Syrian officials in Amman in order to settle the differences between the two countries?

[Mubarak] There are no differences between Egypt and Syria. Similar to Syria, we are a sovereign state. We made our decision, signed a treaty, and did not fail to meet our commitments. I met with President al-Asad in Kuwait and held talks. There was nothing unusual. True, President al-Asad told me: I will attack Camp David. And I told him: Go ahead sir. And, he said what he had to say. But I did not get angry with him. Nothing has happened. So I believe it is a summer cloud that will soon pass. It is neither in our interest nor is it in the interest of Syria or the Arab nation for the existing dispute to continue. A dispute does not mean that countries should sever relations between them. Disputes are bound to occur between brothers. But when they do, the brothers must sit down together and discuss their disputes. Disputes cannot be settled by directing insults and saying humiliating things. Moreover, nobody can ask me to abrogate our international agreements. We are seeking our interests and those of the Arab nation.

[Nassar] You met with Romanian President Ceausescu, who later met with President al-Asad. Can you tell us about the Romanian president's role in achieving Egyptian-Syrian conciliation?

[Mubarak] I do not need countries from Europe to achieve reconciliation between us and President al-Asad. We are not enemies. I met with him in Kuwait and there is nothing personal between us. Besides, the Romanian president spoke only about the Palestine question because he knows Shamir and the Israelis. He also spoke about the peace conference.

[Nassar] Mr President, what is the nature of the disagreement between Egypt and Syria?

[Mubarak] I do not want to talk about a disagreement with Syria. However, I would like to tell our brothers in Syria that the peace treaty is not against the Palestine question. When we sign a treaty we sign it because we are convinced of it. We did not and will not violate the Collective Defense Pact. We do not accept relinquishing one inch of land and will not negotiate over Palestine without the Palestinian people's representatives. But if someone asks me to violate Egypt's commitments and cancel the treaty, I will ask him of what use will this be to him and me? We are committed to peace and all the Arabs are committed to solving the issue peacefully. We are dutybound to join hands and cooperate to solve the issue and return rights to those who have had them taken away. I say that our doors are open. I proposed to the Syrian president to visit him to discuss things, but we did not receive any reply. We accept the method of dialogue and discussion, but not any other approach. We hope that the differences between us and Syria will end and vanish.

[Nassar] What about relations between Egypt and Libya?

[Mubarak] The Libyan president has more than once indirectly informed us of his readiness to meet with me provided that I tell him, even by whispering in his ear, that Egypt will cancel the Camp David accords, even 10 years later. I cannot do this because in my country there are democratic institutions that will disagree with me. This is because canceling the accords means entering a state of war. I do not know what the Libyan president wants. One country's leader told me that Al-Qadhdhafi wants to rule Egypt. Egypt's population amounts to 52 million people. Does it need to lease a president from there? Some may say why not the opposite? We do not want that. All I want is good-neighborliness. I do not want anything from him. If I had wanted to attack him I had many opportunities to do so. However, I did not and will not think of attacking an Arab or non-Arab neighbor. The Libyan president always finances certain organizations with the aim of causing confusion. This behavior will not change. [Cairo AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 12 December on pages 3 and 4 respectively in a 3,500-word "text" of President Mubarak's interview with AL-ITTIHAD omit the preceding two paragraphs on relations between Egypt and Libya.]

[Nassar] Mr President, what is the reality of Egyptian-Soviet relations, which have been at a standstill for years?

[Mubarak] We and Russia did not have relations on the ambassorial level 3 or 4 years ago. Ambassadors were then exchanged. At present, there are good trade exchange and relations between us and the Soviets. Debts were rescheduled and they did not take 1 cent in profit. They did not mention interests and we did not pay for 6 years. Only 2 billion pounds of weapons were paid back in return for Egyptian products in accordance with the old payment agreement.

[Nassar] Has your policy of restoring balance to Egypt's international relations had a positive effect on the Egyptian people?

[Mubarak] The good relations which any state has with world countries are bound to reflect positively on that state and its people. International relations are a wide network of reciprocal interests: I help you and you help me. If I have good relations with other countries and if I am in a difficult situation, I will find someone to help me—from Western or Eastern Europe or one of the big powers. I pursue a policy of maintaining good relations with all world countries.

[Nassar] Mr President, what is the use of convening an international conference when the U.S. President's term of office is about to expire, Israel is divided, and the Arabs have not agreed on a united stand?

[Nassar] All the Arabs have agreed on the international conference. The problem is Israel: Shamir does not agree although there has been agreement on the international conference since 1977.

[Nassar] It has been reported that there have been contacts between Egypt and Gulf states to have Gulf states renew their participation in the Arab Military Industrialization Organization so that it can produce specific types of weapons.

[Mubarak] Our factories have been operating for some time and our military industries are well developed. I heard that Saudi Arabia is establishing a [military industrialization] organization. Anyone who wants to join us is welcome, but if they do not want to join us we are capable of continuing on our own. We are introducing changes to weapons from Western and Eastern countries, and the countries that produce such weapons are buying from us the changes we introduce into their weapons.

[Nassar] Following their development can the Egyptian war factories supply the Arab states with the weapons and ammunition they need?

[Mubarak] Of course. We are now supplying Iraq, and we supplied it at a time when no one was supplying it. We wiil supply all the Arab brothers if they should ask.

[Nassar] Mr President, a high-ranking Palestinian delegation led by Abu Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] arrived yesterday. What are the most important topics to be discussed by the delegation? Will it pave the way for the visit of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Cairo?

[Mubarak] Abu 'Ammar's visit does not need anyone to pave the way for it. We welcome the delegation. However, there are no specific topics to be discussed.

[Nassar] Following the rescheduling of debts owed to some countries, how much do you believe Egyptian economic difficulties will be alleviated?

[Mubarak] The economic problem is not the outcome of 1 or 2 years. We are striving to increase production for that is the linchpin of the economic question.

[Nassar] It has been reported that the United States will present new proposals to Egypt on a solution to the Tabah problem, as part of a U.S. attempt to resolve the issue in a manner that reconciles Egypt's demand of complete sovereignty over Tabah and Israel's demand to exploit the tourist facilities.

[Mubarak] There are new proposals that have not been studied so far. Sovereignty is an issue over which there can be no compromise.

[Nassar] Are there any clouds marring Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Mubarak] There are no clouds marring Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

[Nassar] Mr President, if we suppose that the Arab states and Israel are in agreement on an international conference, do you think that the Arabs would go to the conference with a unified stand without any contradictions?

[Mubarak] If we are serious about settling our issue, then we must coordinate our stands to settle it. We must not go with separate stands. Otherwise, we would differ, make the world laugh at us, and come out of the conference empty-handed. We must go while we are in agreement on one idea. We must coordinate as we are doing with Jordan. Shamir opposes the idea of an international peace conference. He wants a limited conference and dialogue with Jordan. Of course direct dialogue will take place with Jordan, Syria, the Palestinians, and all the parties within the conference, but such a dialogue must be under an international umbrella.

[Nassar] After the Arab summit in Amman, some Arab states have resumed relations with Egypt while others have not. How do you explain that, Your Excellency?

[Mubarak] The first country to resume relations with Egypt after the Amman summit was the UAE. Then the rest of the Gulf states followed suit. What happened was exactly as we had anticipated. The states we said would resume relations with us did so. Regarding those that did not resume relations, I knew in advance that they would not resume them immediately or would delay the resumption. This is the sovereign right of every state and does not disturb us.

We are pleased with those brothers who have resumed complete diplomatic relations and representation with us. The fact is, relations have never stopped for one day between Egypt and all of these states.

[Nassar] Mr President, how have you managed to lead Egyptian society to safety after you assumed power amid difficult internal and external conditions?

[Mubarak] The situation was difficult, but I am calm by nature. Before embarking on any subject, I must study it first from all aspects, and then begin implementation.

Of course when I took power the main problem was the economy and a few other problems. I began by releasing the detainees, permitting the publication of proscribed newspapers, and granting public liberties so that we could begin a new phase and tackle our problems. We began with the main problem—the economy. We held an economic conference during which we defined our priorities against our limited resources. Those resources began to flow in the channels of the set plan. Some 6 years have passed and we are now in the second plan. And, as I look at the situation as it was before and as it is now, I find that there is a big difference. Before the plan, the backbone of the economy was dilapidated. The sewage system for instance was overflowing. We decided to build a brand new sewage system. In Cairo alone this will cost 4.5 billion pounds and will be completed by the end of the second plan. The same goes for the rest of the governorates. In the housing sector, we built in 5 years more than what was built in 25 years. In the railroad sector, we spent more than what was spent on it in the past 50 years. Vast road networks were built: The Cairo-Alexandria desert highway, the Suez desert highway, a wide network of roads in Sinai, rural roads, and the roads to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez.

The telecommunications network has more than doubled. At the beginning of the plan, we had 500,000 lines. Now, we have 1.5 million local and international telephone lines.

We can call the outside world from practically any place in any governorate in the country. We will soon see this facility in some villages in rural areas. The public and private sectors have witnessed great development. New cities have sprung up: Madinat al-Sallam, 10 Ramadan, 15 May, and Al-'Amiriyah. Enormous efforts have been exerted and great achievements have been made through the sweat and effort of our people and through precise planning and good followup work.

[Nassar] How are you tackling the debt problem?

[Mubarak] The debts were due to the large investments in rebuilding the dilapidated infrastructure. We had to pay attention first to the foundation, and that cost us a great deal. But we are not the only debtors. The whole world is in debt. We are trying to overcome the debts by rescheduling them. We will cross that phase. It is not a problem so long as the production continues and the work increases.

[Nassar] What will the second 5-year plan do for Egypt?

[Mubarak] It will continue the infrastructure projects of the first plan and pay attention to development in the major production fields.

[Nassar] Mr President, what is your view of the Egyptian war industries?

[Mubarak] I am not just concerned about war industries.

I am a man of peace. But we are developing our war industries because they help us in those critical times when we do not find anyone to help us. Those industries have helped Iraq a great deal. They are also participating in civilian fields.

Interviewed by UAE TV

NC142143 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is neither against Syria nor the Palestinian cause. He noted that statements saying that this treaty had canceled Egypt's Arab commitments are attempts at one-upmanship and are erroneous.

President Mubarak revealed that he has documents which confirm that this treaty does not cancel any of Egypt's Arab commitments. He said that most of the Arab leaders are well aware of this and that he has sent copies of these documents to them.

President Mubarak reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to the joint Arab Defense Pact, noting that he had previously declared this commitment in a speech to the Egyptian People's Assembly.

In an interview with UAE television in Abu Dhabi broadcast tonight, President Mubarak noted that the second paper of the Camp David accords, which concerns the Palestinian issue, is now frozen. He emphasized that Egypt cannot relinquish a land that it does not possess, nor can it negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians.

The president said that Egypt has not even for one moment stopped exerting every effort for the sake of the Palestinian cause. He indicated that these efforts are consistent with the Fes summit resolutions which approved a peaceful solution and that all the Arab states, including Syria, agree on the method to be used for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue.

The president said that all the parties concerned must sit around the negotiating table within an international framework because the Palestinian issue cannot be solved by carrier pigeon or through the mail. He said that past statements which said there will be no negotiations except after evacuation are no longer acceptable.

On the differences between Egypt and Syria, President Mubarak said that he harbors all affection and appreciation for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and that President al-Asad is an old friend and indeed a comrade-in-arms.

President Mubarak affirmed that his hand is still extended to Syria and to President al-Asad, that his doors and heart are open, and that he is prepared to go to President al-Asad. He said he has declared this more than once. He expressed hope that the differences between Egypt and Syria would vanish.

President Mubarak said in this respect: I wish from the bottom of my heart and with all my strength that the existing dispute between us would vanish. It is not in our interest, nor is it in the interest of Syria or the Arab nation for this dispute to continue.

Regarding Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak said that he does not know what Colonel al-Qadhdhafi really wants.

President Mubarak disclosed that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi once had a desire to unite with China. He said Chinese officials had informed him of this when he had met with them. The president said that he had heard Al-Qadhdhafi tell President al-Sadat the following when he was seeking unity with Egypt: You will assume the presidency of the two republics and I will assume the post of supreme commander of the armed forces. Al-Qadhdhafi wanted to have a big army with which to frighten the world.

On Egypt's Arab relations, President Mubarak said that the Arab states that have resumed diplomatic relations with Egypt and those that have not were exactly as he expected.

He said in this respect that Egypt had severed its relations with Syria, Algeria, and South Yemen, and that praiseworthy Iraq had declared that Egypt had also been the one to sever relations with it. For this reason, Iraq requested that a joint communique be issued by the two countries on their resumption of relations.

Meanwhile, President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt will maintain its stand of supporting Iraq in its war with Iran. He said: An indivisible national security and a genuine Arab solidarity without slogans are the only way to achieve a true pan-Arab security.

Regarding the method of political dialogue which he is pursuing with the opposition parties, the president said: Whoever wishes to deal with me on the basis of national interests and away from personal interests is welcome to do so.

On the method of dealing with the press and the scope of freedom that is allowed in Egypt, President Mubarak said: The press in Egypt enjoys very extensive freedom, and the national press often criticizes certain conditions more vehemently than the party newspapers. In my dealings with this criticism, I ask the officials to sit down and debate with me. The president continued: I personally was strongly attacked by a writer, but, although many people expected this writer to be arrested and put in prison, I said no. I look to the distant future. I want the people, through much practice, to differentiate between right and wrong.

The president added that he meets with prominent writers and journalists every now and then and answers their questions. He said that, as long as he is present, he will not interfere in what the press writes.

Regarding the exploitation of certain terrorist incidents by some foreign quarters in order to distort the picture of the internal situation in Egypt, President Mubarak said: The truth demands that I admit the presence of some extremist groups in Egypt. These groups are financed from abroad and we are aware of their sources. All the Arab and world societies are suffering from this phenomenon of extremism; it is not just restricted to Egypt. However, we are capable of handling and controlling it.

President Mubarak then dealt with the accomplishments that have been achieved during the years of the 5-year plan in the areas of the national infrastructure, such as housing, agriculture, communications, telephones, sewers, and roads.

In his 80-minute interview, President Mubarak lauded the relations between Egypt and the UAE, describing them as profound and strong and based on truthfulness and clarity.

President Mubarak characterized UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan as a pure, frank, and clear man. President Mubarak said that when he was vice president he met with Shaykh Zayid more than 10 times, and that since that time they had not lost touch with each other at all, even during the period when relations were frozen. He added that these contacts revealed that Shaykh Zayid was not happy with the severance of diplomatic relations with Egypt.

President Mubarak said that Shaykh Zayid had declared in a press interview shortly before he left to attend the emergency Arab summit that he would restore relations with Egypt, a matter which reflects what was going on in Shaykh Zayid's mind.

President Mubarak said in his Abu Dhabi television interview that the relationship which binds him to Shaykh Zayid is one of affection and appreciation.

The president added: I would like to seize this opportunity to salute my brother Shaykh Zayid and the UAE, which was the first Arab state to resume relations with Egypt. President Mubarak also greeted the leaders of the Gulf Arab states for the love and appreciation they harbor for Egypt.

Mubarak Receives Armed Forces Chief of Staff

NC151231 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT
15 Dec 87

[Item slugged "Urgent"]

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shanaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, at the Presidential Palace this afternoon.

Mubarak Receives Visiting PLO Delegation

NC150817 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT
15 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received today a PLO delegation consisting of PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, Jamal al-Surani, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Mahmud Darwish.

The meetings was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Israeli Acts in Territories Condemned

NC151032 Cairo MENA in English 0920 GMT
15 Dec 87

[Text] United Nations, Dec 15 (MENA)—Egypt condemned the acts of oppression practised by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and urged peace-loving world powers to intervene to halt the bloody acts which greatly jeopardise all efforts seeking a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

Egypt's permanent delegate to the U.N. 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, said in an address late last night before the U.N. Security Council second session on the situation in the occupied Arab territories, that the deteriorating situation in the occupied lands requires a decisive stand from all, to deter violence and oppression and uphold human rights.

Egypt also urged all international organisations, bodies, and world personalities, to confront the situation in the occupied territories and the acts which violate all international charters and conventions.

Egypt is fully convinced that no amount of violence nor oppression could break the will of resistance in the sons of Palestine, but this will be an incentive for further resistance of occupation and terrorism, the Egyptian delegate to the U.N. said.

He cited as a proof of this, that the twenty years of Israeli occupation of Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan failed to quell national feelings of Arab right within the Palestinian youth who were born under the burden of this occupation.

The Egyptian delegate said that an Israeli acceptance today of an international conference to realise peace, and its readiness to negotiate with all other Arab parties, would be the best guarantee for achieving stability and good neighbourhood and creating a constructive and fruitful cooperation among all peoples in the Middle East.

'Popular Uprising' in Gaza, West Bank Viewed

NC141658 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Israel's Iron Fist No Longer Scares Even the Palestinian Children"]

[Text] During a news conference in the United States a few weeks ago, the Israeli head of state declared that the media had been exaggerating a lot on the issue of those who pelt the Israeli trucks with stones, meaning the demonstrators in Gaza and the West Bank. Yet, now and for the entire last week, cities and villages in the Arab occupied territories have been the scene of a large-scale popular uprising. In view of the worsening situation and the wounding and killing of a large number of citizens—more than at any other time before—the Israeli cabinet devoted yesterday's meeting to the discussion of this issue. The question put before the cabinet members was whether this popular uprising had reached the point of an all-out revolution, as proclaimed by the Israeli press and some political forces inside Israel. The only decision made by the Israeli cabinet with respect to these confrontations was to ask the army to intensify its measures in a bid to maintain order in the occupied territories. This decision is a confession on the part of the Israeli cabinet that the occupation forces can no longer handle the situation there.

Among the significant observations made by the Israeli and international press in commenting on the events in Gaza and the West Bank is that the average age of the demonstrators does not exceed 20 years. This means that these youngsters, who are ready to confront the Israeli presence until their deaths, were born during the Israeli occupation era after the 1967 aggression. This fact, the observers conclude, means that the flame of revolution has never faded, not even in the hearts of those who came to life under the occupation era and its suppressive measures. This proves that the Palestinian revolution is continuing, that the Israeli oppression and brainwashing have not wiped out the patriotic feelings of the Arabs who live in the occupied lands. It also means that, although the banners handed over by each generation to the next are drenched in blood, they always manage to fly. We believe that this is an eloquent answer to those who claim that the Arabs who were born and raised under 20 years of Israeli occupation have lost their Arab affiliation because their standards in life have been modeled after the Israelis. This will, in fact, prove to be a burden for the Arabs once the occupied territories are given back to their owners.

The second observation is that those unarmed young men, who are standing up to the Israeli occupation forces equipped with the most updated tools of repression, are no longer scared of death, not death from guns, not death under the tracks of armored vehicles, not even death from torture in prisons. This growing phenomenon has caused the Israeli authorities and Israeli citizens great concern, all the more so since the hang-glider operation that was carried out by a Palestinian citizen against an Israeli camp and left in its wake a number of dead and wounded Israeli soldiers. The increasing tendency toward such fedayeen missions, coupled with the determination to retrieve the usurped rights, confirms the fact that while the repressive military force of occupation may prove suitable in dealing with similar military forces, there is no way it can manage to check popular uprisings or fedayeen operations.

The third observation is one cited by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres before leaders of the Jewish institutions in New York. He said that Israel's present choice is not whether to make war or peace, but whether to keep Israel a Jewish state. What Peres means is that Israel's annexation of the Arab occupied territories, because of the increasing Arab population, will gradually deprive it of its Jewish nature.

All these observations, as well as others, pose a psychological burden on the Israeli Government, prompting it to escalate its violence in the hope of restricting the course of history. However, all the acts of violence committed by the Israeli Government are to no avail. As Egypt correctly pointed out before in its protest over Israel's bloody practices, these violent acts will only blow up the efforts toward peace.

ICO's Pirzada Arrives on 4-Day Visit

NC141337 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT
14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada arrived in Cairo from Amman this afternoon on a 4-day visit to Egypt. He and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will discuss a number of issues that concern the Islamic world, particularly the Gulf war, the Middle East problem, and the agenda of the conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers scheduled to be held in Jordan from 19 to 22 March 1988.

In an arrival statement, Pirzada expressed condolences to President Mubarak and to the families of the victims of the collision between a school bus and a train. He said that he will meet with President Mubarak, during which they will discuss the Gulf war, the Middle East problem, the possibility of holding an international peace conference, the situation in Africa, and the Afghanistan problem. He added that the ICO is currently making contacts with Iran to convince it to accept a cease-fire. He stressed that the ICO supports the efforts made by the UN secretary general in this regard. [passage omitted]

AL-WAFD Says Iran To Free Egyptian Prisoners

JN142137 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
13 Dec 87 pp 1, 6

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Ali Tal Taskhiri [name as published], official in charge of information in the Iranian Presidency, has asked one of the Egyptian opposition party leaders to convey on oral message to President Mubarak from Iranian President Khamene'i on Egyptian prisoners in Iranian prisons. Two opposition party leaders last week asked for a meeting with President Mubarak to discuss an important matter with him. However, no date for such a meeting has yet been set. AL-WAFD has learned that these two leaders recently returned from Tehran where they attended the Iranian conference on the internationalization of the holy places which convened 23-27 November.

AL-WAFD has also learned that Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, during his meeting with opposition leaders last week, said the Awqaf Ministry will settle the expenses of the ulema delegation that will leave for Tehran to submit the request for the release of the 13,000 Egyptian prisoners. Iranian authorities recently promised the unconditional release of the Egyptian prisoners. They have asked for the formation of a mediation committee comprising Egyptian men of religion to supervise the release of the Egyptian prisoners. Tehran specifically named three men of religion of whom it approves. These men are: Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Isa, former Awqaf minister; Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali; and Counsellor 'Abd al-Halim al-Jundi. The Egyptians who attended the Iranian conference said it will be difficult to have Shaykh 'Abd al-Halim Kishk join the mediation delegation in view of his continued confrontation with the Interior Ministry.

Many Islamic countries had failed in their mediations between Iran and Egypt to obtain the release of the Egyptian prisoners who are detained in Tehran prisons. These prisoners were captured during military operations between the Iraqi and Iranian forces on the Iraqi Khark [as published] and Majnun Islands.

Superpowers Said Disinterested in Mideast Issue

*NC120902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT
12 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says that it can be deduced from the proceedings of the U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington that stagnant problems did not have the same effect as the explosive ones such as the Gulf war or the Afghanistan war. It adds that the 40-year-old Middle East problem seems to have been placed within this context as if it were crawling or limping to the summit without any support.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM goes on to say that truly nothing substantial took place on the Middle East problem at that summit, except for a Soviet paper which had been prepared beforehand and was distributed as an official paper listing the basic principles of the Soviet stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict. AL-AHRAM adds: It is no secret to us that the paper remained on the sidelines of the summit; also, it only spoke about former stands. Regrettably, there was no U.S. paper in return, defining Washington's former or present policy on this issue. We note, however, that the two issues that really imposed themselves on the summit were the Gulf war and the Afghanistan war, both of which are raging.

AL-AHRAM concludes its editorial by stressing that on the basis of this, we can measure without embarrassment the extent of the interest displayed by the two superpowers, and consequently by the world, in the Middle East issue. Because this issue has become stagnant and quiescent, it represents to others a mere volcano crater that does not warrant a glance in present circumstances.

USSR Friendship Society Chairman Arrives

*NC142240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT
14 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Vladimir Vinogradov, chairman of the USSR-Egyptian Friendship Society and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening on a 1-week visit to Egypt in response to an invitation from the Egyptian-USSR Friendship Society.

Upon his arrival, Vinogradov said that the Egyptian-Soviet relations are strong and firm, pointing out that the way is now open to promote these relations.

Vinogradov expressed hope that he would meet with President Husni Mubarak if his time allowed for it. He emphasized that his country supports the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, pointing out that his country's stand in this respect is clear.

Vinogradov said that he will hold talks with Ambassador Hafiz Isma'il, deputy chairman of the Egyptian Friendship Society, on Tuesday. He noted that, during his visit, he will meet with Dr 'Ali Lutfi, speaker of the Consultative Council; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee.

Vinogradov said that his talks with the Egyptian officials will deal with the means to bolster and develop cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

Vinogradov was received at the airport by Ambassador Hafiz Isma'il and a nuamber of Foreign Ministry officials, as well as personnel from the Soviet Embassy in Cairo.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

Comments on Mideast Peace

*NC141427 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT
14 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi has praised the results of the Egyptian-Hungarian talks and said that there is a conviction and a desire to develop and strengthen bilateral relations.

This came in a lecture the Hungarian foreign minister delivered to the Diplomatic Institute, which was attended by a number of Egyptian diplomats.

Varkonyi described the Middle East crisis a one of the important conflicts in the world. He said that its solution is the responsibility of all countries because the continuation of this crisis increases the burdens on international relations and threatens to escalate. He added that Hungary believes that a just settlement of the problem and peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved except through international cooperation and negotiations which take the interests of all the concerned parties into account. He stressed Hungary's support for holding an international peace conference under UN auspices and with the participation of all the concerned parties, including the PLO and the permanent members of the Security Council.

The Hungarian foreign minister expressed his country's support for the Palestinian people and its backing for their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and to set up their independent state. He underlined Hungary's willingness to help, along with the concerned parties, in holding a dialogue to give an impetus to the peace process. He noted the increased number of countries which believe that an international peace conference is the appropriate forum for finding a permanent solution to the Middle East problem. Varkonyi also welcomed the outcome of the recent Arab summit in Amman, particularly the Arab countries' movement in support of such a conference. He stressed that success for this issue primarily requires the unity of the Arab countries and of their ranks.

He warned that the Gulf war is threatening to involve other countries in the region and said that tension must be reduced and the war stopped by implementing Security Council Resolution 598 and by supporting the UN secretary general's efforts.

Concluding his lecture, the Hungarian foreign minister said that the Washington summit between U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev is the first big step toward eliminating international tension and nuclear arms.

Departs for Luxor

NC150648 Cairo MENA in English 0634 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, Dec 15 (MENA)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr. Peter Varkonyi, left here this morning for Luxor and Aswan, Upper Egypt, on a tour of Egyptian archeological and historical sights at the close of his official four-day visit to Egypt, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

Varkonyi also discussed with senior Egyptian officials bilateral cooperation in the various spheres.

The Hungarian minister is due to leave Egypt for home this evening.

Libya

Reportage on Arab Opposition Meeting in Tripoli

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Meeting

LD142228 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi at the Arab opposition parties meeting in Tripoli on 14 December—recorded]

[Text] In reality, I do not want to make an address; however, I have a warning to make, a remark, following today's debates. Naturally, I am grateful for the debates, but I am obliged to intervene to draw your attention to an important remark concerning the issue posed at present: Arab unity.

As I see it, your debates are taking the direction of how to realize Arab unity. One says by force, another says by projects. However, in my opinion, these are not what is required. I would like for you simply to adopt the program of Arab unity in your political programs, in the opposition parties. There is no need for us to speak now on how to realize Arab unity. When we are about to realize it we will look into the means that will allow its realization. But what is now required is how... [Al-Qadhdahfi changes thought] What is now required is the adoption, the adoption of the project of Arab unity only. I wish we could adopt this in our political programs.

Most of the ruling parties are regionalist parties. Their political programs do not provide for measures to realize Arab unity. I want the change to occur in our Arab political movements, with the adoption of the project of Arab unity in their political programs and with the start of struggle from now on for the realization of this objective, alongside their regional programs. In other words, I want a new leap to take place, a turning point, in the regional political programs of the Arab opposition parties with the introduction of the issue of Arab unity in their political programs.

We must not leave this meeting today unless we agree on adopting the project of Arab unity—just the project of Arab unity; just the project of Arab unity. Whether it be a confederation-type or an integration-type, by force or peacefully, this will come later. But now we must leave this conference only after adopting the project of the Arab unity in our political programs. Beginning tomorrow, when you return home, you will write your political program; you will hold meetings of your political bureaus and central committees, party congresses, etc, which will include in their programs the project of Arab unity. For, we are Arabs and there is a threat to our existence; we can protect our existence only through Arab unity. Therefore, we must look into our regional charters and programs, and if we find them devoid of the realization of this demand, which has now become a vital one, then we will have to adopt Arab unity in our regional political programs.

This is a fundamental remark. There is no need to think about how to realize Arab unity at this conference. This is not required because we have not adopted it even in unity. Some of us in these parties do not even believe in unity at all; some believe in regional unity. Let us first adopt the project of unity, and in other conferences, in other meetings, circumstances will permit discussions on the way to realize unity. The Arab League has not failed; on the contrary, the only Arab institution that has succeeded and has remained alive is the Arab League. Why? Because the Arab League did not touch regionalism, since it has respected regionalism and has set up an Arab League over regionalism [as heard]. Because every kingdom has remained a kingdom, every republic has remained a republic, and every sultanate has remained a sultanate; and it has not interfered in the internal affairs of any Arab country and consequently has not shaken any regional regime. For this reason the Arab League has remained and has been respected by the Arabs. They have adhered to it and have convened meetings for it, and therefore the Arab League is the only successful Arab institution, that is, which has survived.

Why? The secret is that it did not touch this regional entity and has kept itself away from the internal affairs of every Arab state and has started talking outside this. [sentence as heard] This teaches us a lesson which we benefit from: If we want any form of Arab unity to succeed, we should keep it removed from regionalism. I mean that it should not result in shaking the regional situation of any Arab country that we want to introduce into this unity.

For this reason I have put forward this project of Arab union to be comprised of presidents, kings, and sultans of these Arab states, from whom we would form one presidential council and so on, without touching anything. This is the way that will succeed, since if we try to change any regional regime, it will refuse.

If we want any union project to succeed it must refrain from touching the regional situation. The regional situation is touched from the inside by local reactions; it is possible for a revolution to take place in a reactionary country and turn it into a progressive Arab country. It is not we who are outside this country who will do this; it is the population of this country that will. I told you this when we opened this conference. We have said that there are workers who, feeling exploited, would possibly revolt in any Arab country—they would revolt. It is not for us to tell them: You workers, you must feel exploited. If they feel exploited, they will revolt; this applies to the last working, exploited, and persecuted sections of the people and so on.

The unionist projects that have failed have done so because they touched the regional regime. The want to change a president, a president will not be a president anymore; two states unite, only one will be president, not two. They see that in this way they would change their regional regime and consequently they have abandoned the unionst projects that failed. The Palestinian resistance, sorry, I mean the liberation of Palestine is a fundamental issue that is interrelated with Arab unity. When we say Arab unity we say the liberation of Palestine and when we say the liberation of Palestine we say Arab unity.

As for the Palestinian resistance, we must not deal with it as we deal with Arab unity, how it is achieved and how...[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] The liberation of Palestine is at the forefront of the Palestinian resistance. What is the action of the Arab opposition now with the Palestinian resistance? You should force your governments to open camps for the Palestinian resistance so that the Palestinians will be trained in all Arab countries. If the Israelis attack an Arab country because it trains the Palestinian fedayeen they will have to attack the whole Arab homeland. This is the state of war which is supposed to be existing between us and the Israelis, because all of us are with the Palestinian people or work for the liberation of Palestine, and consequently there will not be any difference between our armies and the camps of the Palestinian fedayeen. If they hit our camps and the camps of the fedayeen [words indistinct].

You should collect donations and form permanent committees for collecting donations. The Arab homeland, all 100 million Arabs, should collect donations every month or every year for the Palestinian resistance, and you should present volunteers every year to realize the pan-Arab character of the fedayeen action. I want, I mean, I do not want to talk about the Palestinian resistance and its unity on the left or on the right; you, the Arab political opposition, should look for what you can do for the Palestinian resistance, if we are to liberate Palestine.

Sorry, this the intervention I wanted to make. I am very grateful. Now go ahead please in your program. I am following what you are doing. Thank you.

DFLP's Hawatimah Praises Al-Qadhdhafi

LD151030 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) hailed the comprehensive speech delivered by the leader of the revolution in the opening session of the nationalist conference of Arab opposition parties.

He said: "We consider what Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has put forward as a common nationalist and partiotic programme".

In an interview with JANA, Hawatimah added: "We fully meet with him in the struggle to [word indistinct] that the Palestine issue is the central issue for all Arabs. His saying that the Palestinian resistance is the thing that keeps the spirit of the revolution high in the Arab homeland—which is the wise, right and proper say inspired by experience [sentence as received]. The leader's experience through the long years of struggle is full of expertise and basic conclusions". He hailed the leader's initiative for Arab union by saying: "Such a union will cut the [word indistinct] the Arabs of America who wants to drag the Arab countries more and more towards the policies of U.S. imperialism and the expansionist Zionist aggressive defeatist policies.

Nayif Hawatimah, who is taking part in the sessions of the nationalist conference for Arab opposition parties, valued in his interview with JANA the pioneering role of the leader of the great Al-Fatih Revolution to unify the Palestinain resistance factions.

He said: "The Libyan Arab nationalist initiative by the leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on 2 March (Al-Mirrikh) last was an historic urge to us and to our struggle to accomplish our unity".

Adding: "We stress upon the confirmation by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the need for the unity of the Palestine resistance faction to step-up the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy".

Hawatimah hailed the continuous uprising of the Palestine Arab masses inside the occupied land. He stressed upon the need to back the struggle of the Palestine Arab people inside the occupied land in its confrontation with the occupation.

He said: "The river of blood that flows daily amongst the ranks of martyrs in the occupied land clearly confirms what Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had said in his speech yesterday that the struggle of the Palestine people is the glowing torch in the Arab nations's life".

He added: "The uprising of our people inside the occupied land confirms its rejection of occupation, occupiers, the David stable accords, King Husayn's deals with the Zionist enemy and the deals of America's Arabs and its determination on the revolution and its rights to return to its land, self-determination and the establishment of its independant state over the whole of its national soil".

Hawatimah reaffirmed the condemnation by DFLP, the central committee and the Palestinain freedom-fighters of the Arab states which resumed relations with the Egyptian regime and their absolute rejection of the Amman summit resolutions.

In his statement to JANA, he stressed the need to continue imposing seige against the Egyptian regime "until we are able to oust the humiliating accords and the regime that still express its adherence to those imperialist-Zionist-defeatist accords reached on the expense of our Palestine Arab people and our Arab nation".

Meeting Ends 14 Dec

LD151009 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Dec (JANA)—The pan-Arab conference of Arab opposition parties ended last night at People's Hall in Tripoli.

At the end of its sessions the conference issued a final statement, a number of resolutions and recommendations, and a statement of solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people and detainees in Egypt.

In its final statement, the conference highly assessed the pan-Arabist role played by the brother leader of the revolution in the Arab liberation movement, and highly assessed his important initiative of calling for the convening of this conference as a step toward the Arab nation's unity and the unity of the Arab national liberation movement's groups.

Israel Reportedly To Attack PFLP-GC Centers

JN150724 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0640 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH)—According to press reports in Abu Dhabi, Libya took important defensive measures several days ago following reports on the possibility of the Israeli enemy launching an air raid on a Libyan city on the pretext of hitting centers of the PFLP-GC, which carried out the heroic Qibyah operation.

Citing a prominent political source in Beirut, AL-ITTIHAD reports that according to information received by Arab security organs in Beirut, Israel intends to launch a big air raid—similar to the Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunisia—and that in addition to Libya both Syria and the YAR may be attacked.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD150923 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0726 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Dec (JANA)—Mahamat Sani Bako, Nigerian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and his accompanying delegation arrived yesterday evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Egyptian Delegation Arrives in Khartoum

JN131109 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum Dec 13 (SUNA)—An Egyptian Foreign Ministry delegation arrived here earlier Sunday for participation in the meeting of the joint technical committee preparing for the second round of talks between Sudan and Egypt on Brotherhood Charter.

The meetings which will start its sessions today (Sunday) will focus on joint projects and promotion of bilateral cooperation.

The Egyptian delegation to the meeting is led by Assistant Foreign Minister Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi while the Sudanese side headed by Foreign Undersecretary Mirghani Sulayman Khalil Hamid.

Talks Begin

EA132130 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpts] In preparation for the expected meeting between Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in Khartoum at the end of this month, meetings of the Egypt-Sudan technical committee started today at Friendship Hall. The participants discussed some of the final details of plans for implementing the countries' Brotherhood Charter. [passage omitted]

The Brotherhood Charter between Egypt and Sudan is expected to include coordination of cooperation on new principles in military fields within the framework of the countries' joint responsibility for maintaining security, achieving stability, spreading peace in the Nile Valley, protecting Arab and African areas from international conflicts, and maintaining peace in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa in particular, because of the [word indistinct] surrounding it due to the exploitation of conflicts arising there by international strategies. [passage omitted]

Kenyan Delegation Discusses Joint Committee

JN091131 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum Dec 9 (SUNA)—The visiting Kenyan delegation met at the Foreign Ministry yesterday with the director of the political department at the ministry and discussed with him the issue of activating the joint ministerial committee in the framework of cooperation between the two countries the daily AL-AYYAM published here today reported.

The Kenyan delegation reviewed also, during the meeting, the results of the meetings held in Kenya recently between the Sudanese southern parties and John Garang, the daily said.

The meeting also reviewed the issues which agreed upon previously between the two countries in the political, commercial, educational and health fields, the paper added.

Kenya Asked To Close Garang Office

JN131125 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 13 (SUNA)—Sudan has requested from Kenya to close down the office of Garang's movement working currently in Nairobi, the daily AL-AYYAM published here today reported.

Sudan has explained to the Kenyan officials that the office is not working in the field of relief as Garang's movement allegates, but it is practising aggressive activities against Sudan, the daily said.

SPLA Denounces Invitation To Join Coup Plot

EA142150 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] In another surprising political development, the official spokesman of the SPLM-SPLA denounced in categorical and unequivocal terms recent attempts by one or two of the major ruling parties in Khartoum to talk the SPLM-SPLA into supporting what one may say amounts to a palace or Council of Ministers military coup d'etat. The spokesman stressed that the SPLM-SPLA, being consistent with its avowed honesty to the Sudanese people and the principles and the revolutionary program of the 5 April 1985 mass uprising, (?finds) itself to reveal and expose to the Sudanese political forces that may not be in the picture that four Sudan Army generals met SPLM-SPLA representatives in a foreign capital from 26 to 29 November 1987. The SPLM-SPLA accepts the meeting on the principle that the movement is willing and ready to listen and exchange views with any Sudanese political forces, including the Army, at its top or lower (?echelons) or at both levels.

But when the discussion turned to what concretely amounts to a conspiratorial coup and a stab at the back of the forces of the uprising, the SPLM-SPLA said a firm no, and instead made its position clear: that any peace must be within the context of the Koka Dam declaration; and that it must involve in its center the forces of the 5 April 1985 uprising and all other Sudanese political forces that agree and unwaveringly commit themselves to the true principles and revolutionary program of the uprising—not just another gang of four generals shuffling to a foreign country under orders of the repugnant and obnoxious plans of the two pathetic family organizations that have completely lost touch with the reality in both war zone one and two, and have been reduced to two toothless dogs that bark meaningless orders from Khartoum that the Army must recapture this or that garrison from the SPLA, only to succeed at plunging their soldiers to death.

Their newly acquired military hardware ended up in SPLA hands. This surprised them that the world and the Sudan no longer revolves around them. The spokesman concluded by appealing to the Army and the Sudanese people not to listen to the yarn of lies continuously oozing out from the factory of lies in the Khartoum palace, Council of Ministers, and Radio Omdurman; but instead to listen to the voice of reason that the formation of a new united Sudan free of all forms of sectarianism—be they racial, religious, family, or any other—is imperative to true and lasting peace.

Tunisia

Reportage on Libyan Envoy's Visit to Tunis

Meets With Baccouche

LD111140 Tripoli JANA in English 1107 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis, Al Kanoun [December] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi met yesterday with Mr. Hedi Baccouche, the premier of Tunisia. This meeting was held in the government's palace in Qasabah. Present at it were Mr. Taib Sahbani, the state's official delegate to the minister of foreign affairs and Mr. 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the representative of Great Al-Jamahiriyah at the Arab League.

The two sides have exchanged views on a variety of topics of common interest and the brotherly relations existing between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia besides exploring ways for promoting these relations in a manner conducive to serving the aspirations of the Arab people in both countries. At this meeting, a joint [word indistinct] has been stressed to achieve the unity of Arab Maghreb as a stepping-stone to reaching overall Arab unity.

Staff Major al-Humaydi has expressed his appreciation at this meeting with the Tunisian premier. Answering a question raised by a journalist, he says that he has found understanding, good response and good intentions on the part of the Tunisian premier besides his insistence on promoting the bilateral relations to serve the Arab nation.

Talks With Defense Minister

LD121323 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Tunisian-Libyan relations and the scope for their development were the focus of talks held this afternoon at the Ministry of National Defense between Slaheddine Baly, minister of state in charge of national defense, and Major Al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi, special envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Calls Visit 'New Chapter'

LD121908 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tunisian Minister of Interior Habib Ammar met at noon today with Major Al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's special envoy to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Al-Humaydi said afterward that the two men exchanged views on the future of bilateral relations and on matters of mutual interest. He added their talks revealed a common understanding and interest in establishing new relations between Tunisia and the Jamahiriyah based on mutual respect, cooperation, and integration.

Major Al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi reiterated that his visit to Tunisia will open a new chapter in their bilateral relations and that the future will see a major change in these relations.

Praises Bilateral Relations

LD131944 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, had a meeting this afternoon with journalists. He said his talks with the head of state and other officials focused on discussing the bases on which future relations between the two countries would be built. He added they must be built on the basis of mutual respect and consideration for the tendencies and options of each people.

He stressed that during the talks he found full understanding, good intentions, and a sincere readiness to strengthen bilateral ties and to build a joint future. He said bilateral cooperation has been resumed through the presence of a Libyan technical economic commission in Tunis and a Tunisian commission in Libya to discuss the enlisting of Tunisian labor. He said this cooperation will be strengthened and intensified in the near future on the basis of dialogue and respect for obligations of neighborliness and will include all spheres in a way securing common interests and mutual benefits.

In this context, he stressed there are great prospects for strengthening bilateral cooperation and Libya would give absolute priority to Tunisia in the spheres of trade, economic cooperation, and labor supply. Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi said that the region's countries, which have excellent relations on the bilateral level, are now more than at any other time in need of effective and practical action to lay down the foundation of new and strong relations of cooperation, characterized by trust and mutual respect which would provide them with safety from all peripheral setbacks.

He also stressed the need for creating a framework of joint action for the region's countries and coordination at all political and economic levels that would intensify the buildup of the greater Arab Maghreb.

He noted that Tunisian-Libyan relations, which have undergone noticeable improvement since the dawn of 7 November, will witness great development in the near future through the announcement of many measures. He stressed the need to turn the page of the past, to forget negative signs, and to support positive signs and promote them so they become a good starting point for the future.

Ends Visit

LD132214 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi ended his visit to fraternal Tunisia which lasted 4 days, during which he was received by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the president of the Republic of Tunisia. During this visit, Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi held talks and contacts with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and a number of government officials. [passage omitted]

Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi affirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah stretches its hands with all sincerity to the fraternal Tunisian people and its leadership and supports it in its internal choices and stands by Tunisia in its new era. This was stated during a meeting with the press which was held by Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi at noon today and which was attended by a group of Tunisian journalists. He said we have trust in the new era in Tunisia and we have confidence in the new spirit which was brought about by the statement of 7 November. This will enable the Arab people in Tunisia to occupy their Arab and pan-Arab position and will achieve the aspirations of its generations for freedom and pride. Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi added that we focus our hopes of 7 November on local, pan-Arab, and unionist levels and on the triumph of its role which has an influence on the most essential issues of the Arab nation, so as to achieve its aspirations.

Major al-Khuwaylidi also talked about the fraternal relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. He pointed out that these relations faced shocks and obstacles in the past and encountered many storms due to foreign influences which found their interests in this respect.

He stressed that relations between the two fraternal countries were resumed immediately after his meeting with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, with the attendance of Prime Minister Brother Hedi Baccouche. The formal and normal diplomatic measures will be announced soon.

Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi said in his meeting with the Tunisian journalists at noon today that relations between the two fraternal countries will witness a great leap during these days, a matter which affirms the sincerity of the new orientation of the leadership of the new era in Tunisia. It will enable us to compensate and shorten time in a way to benefit the Arab people in Tunisia and the Great Jamahiriyah and to achieve its hopes and aspirations.

He added that during his visit to Tunisia, the new relations required from the two sides have been discussed. They are built on full respect of the choices and orientations of our Arab people in Tunisia, in the Great Jamahiriyah, and the peoples of the region, and on condition they are within the sphere of unionist and future action.

He said during this visit we have found complete understanding and welcome by all the brothers whom I have met and at the head of which is President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. I felt in them a sincere intention to strengthen the common future. Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi said many joint Libyan-Arab-Tunisian committees are devoting themselves now to a discussion of the issues and topics related to consolidating bilateral cooperation in the economic, commercial, industrial and labor spheres.

He added that the future will be radiant with God's help and that we will work for bringing closer the day of unity and the elimination of artificial borders, which were created by colonialism to tear apart the one Arab homeland.

At the end of his meeting with the press, Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi thanked President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the members of the Tunisian Government for the hospitality he received during his visit to Tunisia.

Foreign Minister on Ties With Libya, France

LD131842 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri has announced in Antibes the imminent resumption of diplomatic relations with Libya before the end of the year. Here is what Mahmoud Mestiri had to say:

[Begin recording] We are indeed envisaging the resumption of diplomatic relations. We hope this will happen quickly, but I don't think it is as imminent as all that. It's not impossible that relations should resume before the end of the year, which is the end of the month, and we are now discussing this resumption. I myself have been to see Colonel al-Qadhdhafi who, for good measure sent Major (Filbi) [not further identified] to see our president. I think that things are progressing and very probably we shall arrive at a resumption in diplomatic relations. That doesn't mean, unfortunately, that the resumption of relations will be at the level which we would like, that's to say at a very good level. It means that first of all things will get back to normal. [end recording]

[Announcer] And how are relations between France and Tunisia since the recent change of regime in Tunis? Tunis has named a new ambassador to Paris.

[Begin Mestiri recording] Mr Brahim Turki, who has just been appointed, is a diplomat of the first rank. Relations with Paris are still very important for us. The fact is that there are more and more contacts, that it isn't now just via ambassadors, that the prime ministers are in contact with each other, the presidents are in contact with each other. It's the same with the ministers of foreign affairs, since I have already dined with Mr Raimond, although Mr Raimond is coming to Tunis very soon—on 21 December—so you see, relations are close and contacts take place on a regular basis. [end recording]

Affirms 'No Disputes'

LD150851 Kuwait KUNA in English 0811 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Paris, Dec 15 (KUNA)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri stressed that his country might be the only Arab state which has no disputes with any sisterly country. In an interview with KUNA, Mestiri noted that Tunisia enjoys good relations with Morocco, Algeria and Libya, and will resume diplomatic relations with Tripoli before the end of this year.

He, on the other hand, denied any frigid ties with France, indicating that he himself had paid a visit to Paris, whereas Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond is scheduled to visit Tunis on Dec. 21. Mestiri was on a visit here to represent his country in the French-African summit last week.

Over his country's stand toward the PLO, the Tunisian official said the Palestinian organization "is most welcome" and Tunisia "has no reservations against it."

Mestiri said a four-year respite for parliamentary elections is very necessary so as to revive the country's political, economic, and social situation, in addition to the fact that such a time period is needed as well by the opposition parties to rebuild their organizational structures after long years of persecution.

Tunisia rejects minority's domain over the majority of the people, he said in connection with the Islamic Movement, however, he added, "we ought to distinguish between the phenomenon as a cultural trend and the appeals hailing from Iran."

Baccouche Receives Algerian Labor Minister

LD131556 Algiers APS in English 1136 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis, 13/12/87 (APS)—The ministers of labour and social affairs, Mohamed Nabi, who presided [over the] works of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers was audienced by Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian premier. Development prospects of bilateral cooperation in the field of social affairs were examined during this audience which [words indistinct] before the next session of the Algero-Tunisian joint commission due on 16 December in Algiers.

It is worth recalling that works of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs were sanctioned by the adoption of a political declaration and several decisions and recommendations. The political resolution reaffirmed the support to the Palestinian people in its struggle for the recovery of its national rights and the edification of an independent Palestinian state. Besides, the resolution called for the necessity to grant all the necessary material assistance to Palestinian national and social organizations and associations inside or outside the occupied territories.

In this resolution, the Arab social affairs ministers called for the necessity of the implementation of decisions of the last Arab summit relating to the Arab-Iran conflict and the necessity to ensure security to the Gulf countries. On the social plan, the Arab ministers insisted on the importance of the Arab fund of the social action which benefited from 893 thousand dollars to consolidate its part in fields of emergency assistance in case of natural catastrophes and programmes of development of human resources.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Gunboats Attack Greek Tanker Off Oman

NC151045 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1030 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Regional shipping sources have reported that today a Greek tanker carrying Saudi oil was attacked by Iranian gunboats near the Strait of Hormuz. The 102,088-ton Greek tanker "Ariadne" was struck at 0900 Greek local time [0700 GMT] off the Omani coast. All crew members are uninjured and no damage has yet been reported.

Bahrain

KAL Suspect Reportedly Extradited to ROK

OW150113 Tokyo KYODO in English 0011 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, Dec. 14 KYODO—An unscheduled Korean Air (KAL) plane left for an unidentified destination Monday which may carry the woman suspected of links with the November 29 loss of a KAL Boeing 707. A diplomatic source in Manama said the woman is on board the KAL DC-10, which is probably bound for Seoul. South Korean and Bahraini officials declined comment.

South Korea has asked for extradition of the woman who deplaned the missing KAL flight 858 in Abu Dhabi and was seized in Bahrain December 1. South Korea sent the plane to Bahrain last week to bring her to Seoul.

The young woman and her companion, an elderly man, both carried forged Japanese passports bearing the names of "Mayumi Hachiya" and "Shinichi Hachiya" respectively. The man swallowed poison and killed himself while being questioned by Bahraini immigration officials.

A U.S. warplane spotted floating objects, believed to have come from the missing KAL airliner, in the Andaman Sea late last week.

The Seoul-bound KAL plane, which originated in Baghdad and stopped in Abu Dhabi, went missing with 115 people on board shortly before arriving in Bangkok for a refueling stop on December 29.

Kuwait

U.S. Told of Israeli 'Abuses' of Palestinians

LD141735 Kuwait KUNA in English 1605 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 14 (KUNA)—Kuwait called on the U.S. Government Monday to intervene and dissuade the Israeli occupation authorities from continuing human rights violations in the occupied Arab lands. KUNA has learnt from diplomatic sources that Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah told the American ambassador in Kuwait, Wilson Nathaniel Howell, during a meeting today, "of Kuwait's strong revulsion towards the inhuman Israeli practices against Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Shaykh Sabah, the sources went on, suggested that the U.S. Government should fulfill an effective role towards stopping the wanton human rights abuses by Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians. The chief Kuwaiti diplomat stressed that Kuwait, as an Arab state, believes that the subject of human rights and civic liberties discussed during the recent Soviet-American summit is indivisible. Shaykh Sabah added that the legitimate rights of a Palestinian individual should be given equal treatment when discussing the general issue of human rights.

Further on Visit of Egyptian Defense Minister

Meets With Amir

LD151307 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1223 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Dec (KUNA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Hasim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister, minister of defense and military production, and commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, and his accompanying delegation met with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Sabah and the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Kuwait.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah arrived in Kuwait yesterday morning at the head of a military delegation. Following his arrival, he met with Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. Their talks centered on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Confers With Counterpart

LD151412 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Dec (KUNA)—Field Marshal 'Abd al-Hasim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister, minister of defense and military production, and commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, met here today with Minister of Defense Shaykh Salim al-Sabah. It was officially announced that the talks focused on cooperation, ways of consolidating relations, and exchanging expertise between the two brotherly countries in the military sector. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Salah al-Din Hindawi.

Oman

Further on Visit of Jordan's King Husayn

Holds Talks With Sultan Qabus

JN141458 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Muscat—His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman met at Al-'Alam Palace in Muscat this morning. During their talks, they reviewed Arab issues in light of the new developments on regional and international levels. They also followed the outcome of the historic Amman summit to reinforce Arab solidarity and preserve pan-Arab security. The two leaders additionally discussed the firm brotherly relations and forms of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Departs 14 Dec

JN141500 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan left the country this afternoon following a 2-day state visit to the Sultanate. His Majesty Sultan Qabus led the farewell party, as official farewell ceremonies were held for the Jordanian monarch. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Sentences Set in 13 Jan 'Conspiracy' Trial

EA130747 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] At 2100, the Supreme Court of the Republic concluded its final session to pronounce sentences on those accused in Criminal Case No 3 of 1986. The judgment specifies the charges against the accused and their correlation to the actions of these persons both during preparations for the 13 January 1986 bloody conspiracy and during the actual events.

The court referred to the persons attending the proceedings of the public trial and enumerated the five charges—and their evidence—attributed to the accused, namely: treason against the homeland, acts of terrorism, participation in acts of terrorism, acts of sabotage, and participation in acts of sabotage.

The court announced that 4,330 people were killed during the events and that roughly 39.6 million dinars worth of damage caused by acts of sabotage also occurred. The court explained all legal guarantees available to the accused appearing before it, as well as to those being tried in absentia. This may facilitate the tasks of the defense.

The judgment, which totals 290 pages, reviews the factual evidence of the trial presented to the court sessions. The trial was comprised of 142 public sessions over the various stages, starting with the preliminary hearing. This judgment states that the court heard evidence from 146 witnesses in the case, and studied 402 documents and some experience reports [last two words as heard], in addition to exhibits, video cassettes, and photographs.

The judgment amply deals with the final summation by the public prosecutor and the defense counsel, as well as additions and final statements by the accused. It enumerates and quite adequately explains the bases of the crimes and the charges against the accused, as well as their punishments according to the PDRY penal code.

Sentences in this case were pronounced as follows:

The following fugitives are sentenced to death by firing squad:

[Former President] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, 'Abdallah 'Ali Ilaywah, Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hasani, 'Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, Salih Husayn al-Zawari, Sulayman Ahmad Qays, 'Abdullah Mansur 'Ali, Salim 'Ali Salim, Hamid Ahmad Lamlas, Musa'id Salih 'Abdallah, Ahmad 'Ali al-Ghashbari, Sulayman Nasir Muhammad, Awad Nasir al-Jahmah, Salih Musa'id Husayn, Muhammad Ahmad Salih.

The court also sentenced the following individuals who appeared personally appeared before it to death by firing squad:

Faruq 'Ali Ahmad, Hadi Ahmad Nasir, Alawi Husayn Farhan, Mubarak Salim Ahmad, Ahmad Husayn Musa, Mubarak Nasir Sa'id Salim, Muhammad Ahmad Haydarah al-Shanbah, Nasir Farhan al-Shaybah, Nasir Muhammad 'Ali Shanab, Ahmad Muhammad al-'Aqil, Salim 'Ali Ahmad Dabi, Mahdi Muhammad Hadi, Muhammad Mubarak Marzuq, Al-Qabili Abu Bakr Muqabil, Muhammad 'Abd al-Nabi Salih, Muhammad Salih Miskin.

The following fugitives were sentenced in absentia to 15 years' imprisonment:

Abu Bakr Ba Dhib, 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, Anis Hasan Yahya, Ahmad Haydarah Sa'id, Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, Ahmad Awad al-Mahruq, 'Ali Nasir Lakhsha, 'Ali Salih al-Qutaysh, Muhammad Hamid Haydarah, Fadl Sail 'Abd al-Rahman, Ahmad Mas'ud al-Alawani, Muhammad Nasir Ahmad, Salih Muhammad Lazlam, Ahmad Nasir al-Hamati, Al-Khadir 'Abdallah al-Khadir al-'Aqil, 'Abdallah Ahmad Mihnah, Awad Salih Ubayd.

The following persons who personally appeared before the court received sentences of 15 years in prison:

Salim Mubarak Haydarah, Muhammad 'Ali Salih Qarhum, 'Abdallah Jabil 'Ali, Salim 'Awad 'Azzan.

'Ali Hanash Hadi appeared before the court and received 13 years in prison, while the fugitive 'Abdallah Ahmad Kukayr was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment.

The court also sentenced the following persons who appeared before it to 10 years' imprisonment:

Shayif Qasim 'Ali, Nasir Salim 'Ali Al-Azzani, 'Abdallah Shajabal, Ahmad Mansur Muhammad Mansur, 'Ali Yislam 'Ali Amurah, Yislam Ahmad Faraj Makwa.

The court sentenced the following persons who appeared before it to 8 years in prison:

Muhammad Nasir Ahmad Jabir, 'Abdallah Salih Muhammad Jumay, Salih Ahmad 'Umar al-Bakhishi, Ahmad 'Umar al-Haddad, 'Ali Muhammad Salih al-Qummali, Qasim 'Ali Hisayrah, Fadl 'Abdallah Huwayt, 'Ali Salim Abdallah al-Urri.

The court also sentenced the following persons who appeared before it to 7 years' imprisonment:

Hasan Ahmad al-Sallami, Muhammad Surur 'Ali, Nasir Muhammad 'Ali Ubadi, Nasir Ahmad Jabir, 'Uthman Nasir 'Ali Nasir, 'Abdallah Haydarah Ba Fayyad, Sadiq Ahmad 'Ali Wadi, Muhammad Sayf Thabit, Salih Muhammad Ahmad al-'Ammari, 'Abdallah 'Ayyash 'Isa, 'Alawi Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Billi, 'Umar Salim Zaydan, Husayn Hasan Dahbul, Muhammad Jumay al-Khadir Ba Humayl, Ahmad 'Ali Nasir al-Jarhum, Salim Muhammad Rizq, Muhammad 'Abdallah Ba Sayyid, 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Thurayya, Muhammad Ahmad Muhsin Fadak al-Hudush, 'Abdallah Aydarus Fadak, 'Ali Ahmad Awad al-Hisami.

The court sentenced the following persons who appeared before it to 6 years in prison:

'Uthman Haydarah Mu'udah, Sa'id 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Aqil, Muhammad Husayn 'Ali al-Hubayshi, Ahmad 'Awad 'Atif, Husayn Muhammad Husayn, 'Alawi Muhammad 'Abdallah, Muhammad 'Ali Naji 'Abdallah, 'Abdallah al-Sayyid al-Gharibi, Salim Muhammad 'Abd al-Nabi Baqwan, Muhammad 'Ali 'Abdallah Ba Tays, Salim Muhammad Ahmad al-Sharqi, Salim Salih Husayn al-'Abbab.

The court sentenced the following fugitives to 5 years' imprisonment:

Hasan 'Ali Bin Salamah, Hasan Ahmad Ba Awm.

It also sentenced the following persons who appeared before it to 5 years in prison:

'Abdallah Nasir Rashid, 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd al-Rahman Ba Jammal, 'Ali 'Abd al-Qawi, Muhammad al-Haj Muhammad, 'Ali Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Darb, 'Abd al-Qadir al-Yusufi, Farid Muhammad Ahmad Barakat, Salih Ahmad 'Abd Rabbuh, 'Ali Muqbil Husayn, Muhammad Salim al-'Aqil, 'Abdallah 'Ali Salih Tarmum, 'Ali 'Abd al-Nabi Husayn, Muhammad 'Abdallah Nasir al-Masabi.

The court granted a general amnesty to the following fugitives:

'Abd Rabbuh Husayn Maswar, Salih Husayn Qasim, Salim Mansur Haydarah, Ahmad Muhammad al-Jawbani, Salim Muhammad Nasir al-Qu'ay.

The court also granted a general amnesty to the following persons who appeared before it:

Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman Khan, Hasan 'Abdallah Ishaq, Salih Abu Bakr al-Hamati, 'Abdallah Khamis 'Ali Dabi, 'Abdallah 'Abduh Salih, Tawfiq Hamid Muqbil.

The court acquitted the following: Ahmad 'Ali Haytham, 'Awad Salim Bardaha, Jarallah Salim Husayn, Qasim Muhammad Qaribi, Nasir Shaykh Husayn 'Ali Mu'udah Mas'ud.

The court dropped charges against Muhammad 'Ali Miftah because he died of natural causes while in custody.

Ex-President Condemns Verdicts

LD132104 Kuwait KUNA in English 1640 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 13 (KUNA)—Former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reacted to the death sentence issued against him after a year-long trial in absentia saying the door has been closed before the mediation efforts to achieve national unity in Yemen. He described the sentence during a telephone interview with AL-ITTIHAD newspaper of Abu Dhabi as "a new massacre which we will not ignore, our responsibility is to confront it."

Muhammad was tried in absentia together with 34 of his ministers and senior officers. A total of 108 people were charged with high treason in the trial which ended last night.

Muhammad was quoted by the newspaper as saying "these sentences have finally closed the door before the mediation effort of friends to achieve national unity in Yemen." 'Ali Nasir Muhammad appealed to friends within the country and outside to stop the execution of the sentences and help achieve the release of detainees. He also said that he will hold a press conference later today on this issue.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Donates $10 Million to Lebanon

LD141909 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1743 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 14 Dec (SPA)—Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir made the following statement to SPA: [passage omitted] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has ordered that $10 million be spent in Lebanon for such worthy causes as money for the poor, clothing, and medical care. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Asks Al-Bid To 'Reconsider' Sentences

JN120739 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic and secretary general of the General People's Congress, last night held a telephone conversation with his brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the [YSP] Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland. The president appealed to Al-Bid and the brother officials in the [YSP] Politburo and Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and the Armed Forces General Command—in the name of the leadership, government, and sons of the northern part of the homeland—to reconsider and postpone handing down the verdicts for the January 1986 incidents. President Salih affirmed that postponing these sentences serves national interests and nurses the wounds and pain produced by these events. He added that national duty calls on all of us to continue our efforts to entrench cohesion, harmony, and unity.

The president also affirmed to his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid that the northern part of the homeland—leadership, government, and people—will spare no effort to cooperate with their brothers in the southern part to entrench national unity; perpetuate security and stability; and achieve progress, development, and prosperity in the Yemeni homeland for regaining the unity of Yemen, both territorially and of its people.

Ex-President Appeals Verdicts

JN142040 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 87

["Text" of cable sent by former President 'Abdallah al-Sallal to 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the PDRY YSP Central Committee; date and place not given]

[Text] Dear Son 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, and brother members of the Political Bureau in our southern part: Greetings. In the name of God, I beg you to respond to the humanitarian appeal made by the faithful son of Yemen, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, not to carry out the sentences passed in connection with the 13 January incidents. I ask this for the sake of the martyrs of the September and October Revolutions. In any case, I have great faith in you. Accept my greetings and appreciation.

[Signed] Your father,

Field Marshal 'Abdallah al-Sallal

Solidarity Body Requests Mercy

JN142042 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 87

["Text" of "appeal" by the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity to PDRY leaders issued on 14 December; place not given]

[Text] Brothers the secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; officials of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee, and the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the southern part of the homeland:

On behalf of the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity in the northern part of the homeland, we appeal to you to suspend the sentences passed in connection with the tragic 13 January incidents. We ask you to do this to staunch the bloodshed and to establish peace, security, and stability in Yemen and in the entire region. Let our Yemeni people be spared further bloodshed. In the name of the souls of the Yemeni martyrs, and for the sake of the supreme interests of Yemen and the revolution, we repeat our appeal to you to suspend the sentences. Thank you.

[Signed] Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki

President of the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity in the northern part of the homeland

'Aziz, USSR's Sytenko Discuss Summit Results

JN141951 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Mikhail Sytenko, ambassador at large on special assignment and envoy of the Soviet leadership.

The results of last week's Soviet-U.S. summit in Washington and ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 in light of Iran's rejection of the resolution were discussed during the meeting.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary and the heads of the First International and the Organizations Departments of the Ministry also attended the meeting.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

27 Tanker Crewmen Killed

JN141718 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] The Norwegian Foreign Ministry has reported that 27 crewmen of an Iranian-owned oil tanker run by a Norwegian company were killed when Iraqi warplanes hit the tanker twice within a few hours with Exocet missiles.

(Abrakot), a spokesman for the [Norwegian] Foreign Ministry, told REUTER today that the remains of two bodies were found following the two raids against the 218,460 tonne tanker "Susangird" last Thursday and Friday [dates as heard].

Communique No 2,950

JN141728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,950 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today, inflicting further losses on the Zionist Khomeyniites as follows:

1. One infantry position was destroyed, killing or wounding its occupants in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

2. Three infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. Five scoundrels were killed or wounded and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. One personnel shelter, one observation post, and one infantry position were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. Two large vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 December 1987

Fighting in North Denied

JN141918 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1856 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims about the occurrence of fighting in the area of Sarsank in northern Iraq. He described these claims as a new lie the Iranian regime has added to the series of its daily lies.

In a statement to INA tonight, a military spokesman said the Iraqi forces did not lose a single soldier in this place. He added that security is prevailing in the area and that any neutral visitor can visit the site and see for himself that the Iranian rulers utter only illogical claims which refute themselves.

He affirmed that there are two Iraqi Army Corps stationed between the Iranian border and this area. Therefore, how could the Iranians reach this area to kill and then return as if it were a picnic?

Peres Regrets No Results on Mideast Peace

TA130733 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told us this morning that he regrets the fact that the Reagan-Gorbachev summit has not contributed to any change in the peace process and in the condition of Jews in the USSR. In New York yesterday, Peres heard a report on the summit from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who expressed his concern about the deadlock that has come to prevail in the peace process and about the recent incidents in the territories. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon reports from New York:

[Begin recording] [Eylon] Even Murphy himself does not know whether the Middle East issue arose in the Reagan-Gorbachev talks, but it was mentioned in the deliberations held by the Soviet-U.S. work teams, without any particular progress. Murphy told Peres yesterday that besides the INF treaty no progress has been made in other issues pending between the two superpowers. This led the foreign minister to express his regret at the fact that the summit had not changed a thing for Israel.

[Peres] As for the Middle East issue, I am sorry that an opening for peace in the Middle East has not been reached. I think that both leaders could bring about the opening of direct negotiations between the Arabs and us.

[Eylon] And they did not do this.

[Peres] They did not do this, since they thought they would not have the necessary clout with their respective clients.

[Eylon] Peres says it was agreed that a deadlock is not the desirable situation. A deadlock even contains dangers, as was stated by the assistant secretary of state upon leaving the meeting. In reply to the recent incidents in the territories, Murphy said:

[Murphy, speaking in English] We regret deeply the violence that's occurring, and our concern is that without an active peace process, you're going to see more such violence.

[Eylon] Although the words deadlock, danger, and deterioration are repeated in Peres' vocabulary, he promises to continue to seek solutions.

[Peres] I do not know whether there are ways. I know that we must try to find them, and I will definitely do my best to seek such solutions, whether on the international level—from now until May or June, the date for the next meeting of the leaders of the superpowers—or on the level of Arab contacts. I will do my best to investigate the possibility of opening peace negotiations. [end recording]

Urges Continued U.S. Role

TA141919 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Dec 87 p A5

[Report from New York by Ron Dagoni]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday called on the United States to continue working for a solution to the Palestinian problem.

In a festive speech at a ceremony in which he was granted an honorary Ph.D. from Yeshiva University, the foreign minister said: "We hope the United States will not tire and will continue to establish peace in the Middle East. The United States helped to establish peace between Israel and Egypt. It can do the same with Israel and Jordan, which would enable a solution to the Palestinian problem."

"We do not expect Reagan or Gorbachev to conduct negotiations on our behalf," Peres said, "and neither do we expect them to impose a solution on the sides. They must contribute, not dictate. They must accord legitimacy to negotiations between the sides." [passage omitted]

Rabin, Carlucci Sign Memorandum on Cooperation

TA141844 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A memorandum on cooperation between the Israeli and U.S. defense establishments was signed in Washington this evening. The memorandum will enable Israeli companies to compete for U.S. Army contracts under privileged conditions.

The memorandum was signed by the Israeli defense minister and the U.S. secretary of defense at the outset of Minister Rabin's week-long working visit. Mr Rabin is currently conferring with Pentagon leaders. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from the Pentagon.

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] What is today's date? U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci asked when he sat next to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to sign the memorandum. The ceremony was preceded by statements by the men regarding cooperation between the two countries. Secretary of Defense Carlucci spoke about the significance of the memorandum, emphasizing the importance of the event which demonstrates that the two defense establishments can work in cooperation. [passage omitted]

Rabin, who is the first minister to be received by Carlucci in his new capacity, thanked his host.

[Rabin, speaking in English] There are special relations between tiny Israel and the huge United States because we share the same values. We believe in freedom and security to all countries in the world. [end recording]

Rabin Responds to U.S. Criticism

TA150524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Report from Washington by Connie Lon]

[Text] The Reagan administration has been very critical of Israel over recent events in the territories. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, testifying on Capitol Hill, said harsh security measures by occupation authorities are sometimes inconsistent with recognized international standards. We asked Defense Minister Rabin about the statement and he told us Israel is doing what it can to maintain peace and justice in the territories:

[Begin Rabin recording] I believe everybody is concerned, but allow me to make it clear. Our policy will continue to be under our Military Government and Civil Administration. We'll continue to use all the means within the limits of our laws to keep law and to fight terrorism. At the same time, [we will continue] to do what can be done to improve the standard of life and the quality of life of the Palestinians there. [end recording]

Despite his assurances, the Reagan administration is on guard. The State Department issued a statement saying: We view the violence with serious concern. They add: The tragic events are a reminder of the deep communal conflict and of the unresolved political status of the West Bank and Gaza.

Shamir: Murphy Remarks 'Contribution' to Arabs

TA151046 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The statements made by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, in which he condemned Israel's policy in the territories, are a contribution made by the United States to the Arab world to compensate for the aid extended to the Arabs by the Soviet Union. The above was stated this morning by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who expressed the hope that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin answered Murphy properly. [passage omitted]

Morning Editorials Issue Warnings to Syria

TA150921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Dec 87

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] In reaction to Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas' remarks on the night of the hang glider, THE JERUSALEM POST says that Israel can have no interest in starting a full-scale war with Syria, but its readiness to spike its guns for the duration of the Washington summit, in response to a U.S. request, must on no account be interpreted as permanently renouncing the military option against its Syrian-sponsored enemies across the border, even if that threatens to bring in the Syrians themselves.

HATZOFE writes that Syria has always gone to what is called the brink. It pushes Israel into a war through provocative actions. But we reserve the right to teach Syria a lesson, just as we reserve the right to decide on the right time and place for this. Warnings by foreign countries to avoid reacting will not prevent us from teaching Syria a lesson at a time suitable to us. Syria should not interpret restraint as weakness.

Paper Notes Syrian Command Changes in Lebanon

TA151103 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] An Arab paper published in Cyprus reports that Syria has made personnel changes in its military headquarters in Lebanon. The commander of the Syrian intelligence network in Lebanon, Ghazi Kan'an, was transferred to another post. He was replaced by (Muhamad 'Isa al-Shakish). The commander of the Beirut area will be Nur-al-Din Sulayman, who serves in Air Force intelligence.

SLA Confirms Lahd Visit to East Beirut

TA141853 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] headquarters has confirmed that General Antoine Lahd last week visited East Beirut where he met with Christian leaders. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned that Lahd reached Beirut by sea and stayed with relatives.

Beirut papers reported that Gen Lahd had notified the Christian leaders that his army had been placed on a state of alert in preparation for an Israeli operation in Lebanon. SLA headquarters categorically denied this report.

AL-SAFIR reported that four Israeli officers accompanied Gen Lahd on his visit to Beirut.

Naval Strength of 'Terrorists' Evaluated

TA131002 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Report by Dov Gilhar]

[Text] The terrorist act against the Israel Navy ship "Dabur" again raises the issue of the strength of the terrorist organizations' naval branch. The construction of the naval branch of the Iran-supported Hizballah organization began at the start of 1986. Hizballah was quite largely inspired by the guerrilla activity against tankers in the Persian Gulf.

Thus far the Hizballah's naval branch has concentrated on attempting to hit Navy ships that patrol off the Lebanese coast. One method of attack is to plant homemade mines. Last weekend they ambushed and scored a direct hit on a Navy ship with RPG's.

The method used is an exact copy of Iranian fighting against tankers in Persian Gulf waters. Hizballah naval fighters also train in Persian Gulf waters, later arriving in Lebanon for activity against the Israeli Navy. The assessment is that the Hizballah definitely intends to continue naval activity off the Lebanese shore. Furthermore, it is assumed that in the future they will also want to infiltrate into Israel by sea to carry out terrorist acts against the civilian population.

Ahmad Jibril's organization and 'Arafat's Fatah also have a naval branch. Jibril's naval branch is commanded by Khalid Jibril, Ahmad Jibril's son. Jibril's naval force is concentrated in northern Lebanon bases in the Tripoli area. Jibril is supported by Syria. His naval force, just as his aerial one which we remember from the glider incident, is now being organized.

Fatah, 'Arafat's organization, which trains in North Yemen and in northern Africa, also has naval capability. 'Arafat also engages in underwater terror. He has divers and pocket [kis] submarines. Thus far, 'Arafat has not managed to operate the underwater vessels.

The Navy has scored many achievements in preventing naval terror. The IDF notes, however, the difficulty made clear by last weekend's incident: Due to the abundance of small vessels off the Lebanese coast there is no choice but to get close to the Lebanese boats in an attempt to identify the vessel.

Abu Nidal Executed 3 'Spies' Last Month

TA141858 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The Palestinian terror group led by Abu Nidal said today it had executed three Palestinians who admitted spying for Israel. The Fatah Revolutionary Council, in a typewritten message delivered to an international news agency in Beirut, said the three were accused of collecting information for Israel on Palestinian military bases. The executions took place last month. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Ambassador Meets With Peace Activists

TA141226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni met with Israeli peace movement representatives at the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv this morning. The participants in the meeting called for an end to the violence in the territories. Our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar reports that Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah proposed that a meeting be held in Cairo or Al-'Arish between Palestinian and Israeli representatives to discuss the peace issue.

Egypt-PLO Rapprochement Viewed 'With Concern'

TA131613 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel views the recent rapprochement between Egypt and the PLO, which climaxed in the opening of the PLO offices in Cairo, with concern, an official in the Prime Minister's Office said last night.

The same official stressed that following the renewal of relations between the Arab countries and Egypt, the Egyptian Government has been trying to improve relations with the Palestinian movement, especially the PLO. The official expressed the hope that this would not come at the expense of peace agreements and relations with Israel.

Egypt-Syria Rapprochement Termed 'Positive'

JN111751 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1436 GMT 11 Dec 87

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] The newspaper AL-WAFD, which represents the liberal opposition in Egypt, said this week that the mediation efforts initiated between Egypt and Syria by King Husayn and the Romanian president have been crowned with success and that a Syrian-Egyptian meeting will be held in Amman this month.

If this news proves to be true and if a reconciliation is actually brought about between Egypt and Syria, this would be a positive and significant development with regard to the efforts being made to clear the Arab atmosphere. It would also have positive effects on the peace march and the prospects for activating peace efforts in the Middle East.

If this development is realized, it would highlight certain points. First, it would highlight the fact that the Syrian rulers would be abandoning the demand to which they have stuck thus far; namely, that an Egyptian abrogation of the peace treaty with Israel must be a prerequisite for achieving a reconciliation after they have realized the extent of Egypt's commitment to peace as a firm strategy pursued in the interest of the Egyptian people in particular, and the Arab peoples in general. Second, it would also mean that the Damascus rulers have abandoned their ambitions regarding occupying Egypt's position and its pioneering role in the Arab world. Third, it would be tantamount to an admission by the Syrian rulers regarding their mistakes, which sought to antagonize Egypt and isolate it from the Arab world.

There is no doubt man is not immune from making mistakes and that admitting mistakes have been made, even if this admission is made after a long delay, is a virtue and a thousand times more honorable than persisting in intransigence and going to extremes through the pursuit of mistaken policies.

As a matter of fact, Syria, is experiencing economic and internal problems, not to mention its problems in Lebanon and with Khomeyni's Iran and also in the Arab world. Al-Asad's Syria has found itself in a state in which it needs Egypt much more than Egypt needs it, especially since the majority of the Arab states officially returned to Egypt's lap following the recent Amman summit.

In addition, Al-Asad's Syria, which during the 8 years that preceded the Amman summit has given itself the time the high authorities needed to extricate Egypt from or return it to the Arab fold and which has spared no effort to isolate Egypt, has become in dire need of returning to the Arab and Islamic folds.

Finally, it is worth indicating that contrary to all cheap claims and ill-meant propaganda, Israel would bless the Egyptian-Syrian reconciliation if it is not achieved at the expense of peace between the Egyptian and Israeli peoples since this reconciliation would remove one of the seemingly insurmountable obstacles obstructing the efforts to unify Arab ranks and their quest for a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Inter-Arab differences have always been one of the tragic reasons preventing the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace in our region.

Jordanian Official Holds Talks on Territories

TA141713 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] A senior Jordanian official visited the territories and Israel last week, meeting with Israeli officials dealing with the territories. The man is Sa'dallah Sa'dallah, the Jordanian Occupied Territories Ministry official in charge of the 5-year plans for the development of the territories. He met with Civilian Administration officials, among others, at a private residence in East Jerusalem.

Our correspondent has learned that defense establishment circles are dissatisfied with the low profile of Jordan's involvement in the territories. They say that those who had believed that Jordan's 5-year plans would serve as a lever for in-depth penetration into the territories have been proved wrong by the course of events.

It seems that Jordan failed to keep its word concerning the recognition of Arab civil servants appointed by Israel after the 6-Day War. They were not paid a salary by the Jordanian Government, but instead were sent a sum equivalent to half a salary as aid. This mainly affected teachers who were entered not on the Jordanian Ministry of Education list, but on a list of persons eligible for state aid compiled by the Occupied Territories Ministry.

The defense establishment was greatly displeased with the conduct of Hafiz Tuqan, the mayor of Nabulus, regarding the weekend events. Tuqan, a Jordanian who was appointed jointly by Israel and Jordan, permitted demonstrators to use the municipality building. In an emergency meeting with the military governor, he demanded that a commission of inquiry be set up to look into the events at Balatah and to punish the culprits.

The defense establishment reacted to the proposed measures by saying that Tuqan "exaggerates" and "tries to have a finger in every pie."

Brazil Criticizes Attitude Toward Arabs

TA132126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Brazil has criticized Israel's attitude toward the Arabs. A diplomatic source in the capital, Brasilia, said that in a theocratic country like Israel, the Arabs cannot hope to be anything but second-class citizens.

Brazil therefore objects to the military occupation. The source added that Brazil supports UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for an Israeli withdrawal from the territories.

The Brazilian source made these remarks in anticipation of the upcoming visit to Brazil by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He claimed that the visit was made possible thanks to Peres' views on negotiations with the Arabs, and described Israeli-Brazilian relations as being merely correct.

Tamir Ends Visit to Italy, Notes Achievements

TA131019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir has ended a visit to Italy. He arrived there heading a delegation of economists. In a talk with Yosi Bar, our correspondent in Rome, he listed three achievements made during the visit: cooperation with Italy in Third World countries; the establishment of a joint committee that will supervise industrial research in the two countries; and cooperation with several regions in Italy that need help in the agriculture and irrigation sphere.

Mr Tamir met with Italian Government officials in Rome, discussing with them a solution to the crisis in the Middle East and the chances of the international conference idea. He told our correspondent that he came to prepare the ground for elections in Israel, adding that it is not at all possible for us to separate ourselves from the general peace process in the world. He further said it should not be concealed that Israel today maintains contacts on the international conference issue with Jordan, Egypt, the USSR, and the PRC.

Avraham Tamir left for New York where he will meet Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and proceed to Brazil with him.

USSR's Bykov Interviewed on Bilateral Ties

TA111008 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Dec 87 p 5

[Interview with Oleg Bykov, deputy director of the World Economics and International Relations Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow, by Washington correspondent Dalya Refa'el at the Madison Hotel in Washington "this week"]

[Text] [Refa'el] How and when will the problem of those Jews who want to emigrate from the Soviet Union be solved?

[Bykov] The solution of the problem of Jewish emigration is connected to the solution of the problems in your region, simply because those who leave the Soviet Union—or some of them at least—go to Israel. And the situation in your country is still very problematic and very far from normal.

[Refa'el] In the meantime, 400,000 Jews want to leave the Soviet Union.

[Bykov] Different facts and figures have been heard here this week. The official data of our Interior Ministry are totally different. I have no doubt whatsoever that every application is examined on merit, and most of them are approved. This is also evident in the data provided by our Interior Ministry for the last year. Most of the refusals are due to national security considerations.

[Refa'el] What about the Jews who live in the Soviet Union? Can they conduct a Jewish life?

[Bykov] The process of glasnost and democratization includes government support for the restoration of churches, mosques, and synagogues. There are no restrictions whatsoever on any religious affiliations. The Jewish faith and those who believe in it are part of the overall process.

[Refa'el] What is the way to attain peace in the Middle East?

[Bykov] A political solution must be found through an international conference with the participation of the Soviet Union. There can be no international conference with a few select countries and without the participation of either one of the superpowers. It is important to note that except for those who hold very extreme views, Soviet policy is, in principle, based on the recognition of Israel and its right to exist in peace. Of course, this is easier said than done. Your government is also not of one mind on the issue. Shamir and Peres are very different in their outlooks. One of them is more constructive than the other. If they switched positions, maybe it would be easier to convene the conference. My personal feeling is that the improvement in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States will also affect your region. Progress on arms limitation and other issues will create a political climate that will promote positive processes in the Middle East as well.

[Refa'el] Must diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union be renewed in order to improve the political climate?

[Bykov] Diplomatic relations between our two countries should have resumed a long time ago. In the mid-1970's it looked as if we had made progress toward the culmination of this process, but several events occurred that aborted it. The change of government in Israel did not make things easier, and the deterioration of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States (in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan—D.R.) had an adverse effect. Now we are once again at the beginning of a road which, if pursued, will lead to the resumption of relations. Our consular activities in your country are an important beginning. The general approach today is much more positive. The Arab side has also become more moderate, although it should not be treated as a homogeneous group.

[Refa'el] How will the role of the "international" conference be defined? Will it only be an "umbrella" for the incumbent parties or will it be an authoritative forum with the power to enforce decisions?

[Bykov] I do not want to go into details. This is a diplomatic process. It is a gross mistake to focus on the technical aspects rather than on the process itself. At the beginning of the process that led to the INF agreement we also focused on the general outlook and on the willingness to make compromises. It was only at much later stages that we elaborated on the details. The decisions to be made are political and not technical. If the proper flexibility is maintained, ways will be found. The arguments here at the summit meeting will also have implications for the process in your region, for flexibility, the willingness to compromise, and the recognition of common interests.

[Refa'el] Will the Soviet Union play an active role in securing peace between Israel and its neighbors?

[Bykov] Definitely. We wish we could already play a more active role today and negotiate with all the sides. However, our hands are full. Our international policy is very dynamic and fast-growing, after having been frozen for decades. We are now busy developing our political and economic relations with European countries, India, Japan, etc. The Persian Gulf also calls for serious attention and treatment. All these have diverted the brunt of our political efforts from the Middle East to other places in the world. Nevertheless, we are investing efforts to try to prevent a flare-up in your region.

[Refa'el] In your opinion, how realistic is the possibility of convening an international conference?

[Bykov] I believe it is possible to convene the parties. Things change. What once was "very serious" will become "less serious," just as the entire atmosphere which was based on conflict, hatred, and prejudice is now evolving into mutual recognition and understanding. This is the realistic approach. We must bear in mind that not "only" world security, but the existence of mankind is at stake. Minimal cooperation between the superpowers will make it possible to deal with urgent issues. The situation will change. Many things seem impossible, but can be done through the right approach. For instance, we were not "crazy" about the Camp David accords, but it is an excellent example of doing the impossible.

[Refa'el] Why did you not "like" the Camp David accords?

[Bykov] Such arrangements must be attained through multilateral means. The Soviet Union should have been part of the process that led to the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

[Refa'el] Would you be willing to estimate when the "impossible" will be attained?

[Bykov] I dare not make an exact estimate. It will be in the near future, but I cannot commit myself to a definition of the time frame.

Leftist Delegation Invited To Visit Yugoslavia

TA091303 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Dec 87 p 7

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Text] Yugoslavia has invited a delegation from Israel for a visit, including Knesset Members [MK's] from the Labor Party, MAPAM, the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], and the Progressive List for Peace [PLP].

The delegation will be headed by PLP MK Matityahu Peled and will leave on 18 December for a 6-day visit.

The initiator of the invitation is the Yugoslav "Socialist Alliance," an umbrella organization of the Communist Party and other elements. The delegation will include Labor Party MK Aharon Har'el; MAPAM MK Amira Sartani; and CRM MK Mordekhay Virshubsky; as well as poet Dalya Rabikowitz; author Shim'on Balas; journalist Teddy Preuss; Vered Har'el of the Sephardic Jews for peace movement; Marianne Mar'i, widow of the Arab psychologist Sami Mara'i; and attorney Amnon Zikhroni.

MK Peled requested a meeting with the Yugoslav foreign minister for the delegation. In his talks, Peled intends to raise the question of renewing relations between Yugoslavia and Israel. Tours and meetings with authors and intellectuals have already been set up for the delegation.

Peled is to visit Cuba even before his Yugoslav tour. Nasim Mirzah, head of the Committee for the Rights of the Palestinian People in the UN secretariat, invited him to participate next Saturday in a seminar on the Palestinian problem initiated by the committee in Havana.

Leftist MK Peled Leaves for Cuba Seminar

TA121759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Matityahu Peled, Knesset Member [MK] from the Progessive List for Peace [PLP], left for Cuba to attend a seminar on the Middle East organized by the United Nations. Our correspondent Razi Barqay says that public figures [not further specified] and PLO representatives will participate in the gathering.

A delegation of leftist Israeli MK's is to leave this week for Belgrade as guests of the Yugoslav authorities. The delegation includes Labor Party, Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM, and PLP members, as well as several Israeli intellectuals.

EEC Agreement Signed on West Bank Products

TA120635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The agreement between Israel and the EEC on the marketing of agricultural products from the territories has been officially signed in Brussels. According to the agreement the inhabitants of the territories will be able to market their products to EEC countries directly rather than through AGREXCO. The products will have labels listing the region from which they originated. These will be in place of the standard label carried by all products exported from Israel. Documents stating the originating region of the products will be distributed to the chambers of commerce in the territories.

Unrest Continues in Territories; Casualties

Hospital Official Beaten

TA140621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Ahmad Marzuq Abu al-Sha'b, the deputy director of the Al-Nasir Hospital in Rafah, is being hospitalized at the Beersheba Soroka Hospital after he was beaten by Rafah residents. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports that Abu al-Sha'b was beaten since he helped the military authorities to transfer wounded locals to Israeli hospitals despite the residents' opposition. About 20 people, armed with bottle shards, burst into the Al-Nasir Hospital, beat Abu al-Sha'b up and cut his face and neck.

IDF Inquiry on Youth's Death

TA141907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] The investigation conducted by the security forces in Gaza shows that security personnel acted according to regulations during today's shooting in Khan Yunus in which one person was killed and four were wounded. According to the investigation, the youth was killed after throwing a Molotov cocktail at an IDF patrol. The probe also showed that in another incident soldiers manning a roadblock shot at a group of youths who had attacked them to the point of endangering their lives.

Calm Reported; Curfews Lifted

TA150800 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Calm prevailed in the Gaza Strip during the night. Military Government officials met with representatives of the local Gaza population with the aim of getting life back to normal. From the south, our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv:

The closure imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip was lifted last night to enable the many salaried workers from this camp to leave for work in Israel. They are joined by many other Gaza Strip residents who are also leaving for Israel this morning. In order to renew trade on the main streets of the towns in the areas, the merchants are in need of measures that will prevent inciters from pressuring them to close down their businesses again.

The curfew imposed on the entrance to Khan Yunus yesterday afternoon was lifted last night, and the inhabitants were busy this morning stocking up at food shops. At the Islamic College in Gaza, the school administration decided to continue the break in studies affecting thousands of students as they await the restoration of order in the town.

Gaza was quieter yesterday than in previous days and more businesses were open yesterday and this morning. Representatives of various sectors of the population held contacts with the Israeli administration in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours with the aim of finding a way to return to normal life. Many view today as a test of the turning point which developed last night toward easing the tension.

Riots Continue 15 Dec

TA151156 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, there were public disturbances and demonstrations again today. In Khan Yunus one of the rioters was killed and 11 were wounded after attacking a military force. Molotov cocktails and stones were also hurled in other places in the Gaza Strip, including Rafah and Gaza. In all these places, the security forces repelled the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets.

In East Jerusalem and its environs there were also public disturbances. On Salah Al-Din Street in East Jerusalem, a steel pipe was thrown at an Israeli car. There were no casualties but some damage was caused. On the road leading to the Intercontinental Hotel, a No. 94 bus was stoned. Near Al-Maqasid Hospital, the road was blocked with burning tires. At the Aram Junction near 'Atarot, five were arrested for trying to set tires on fire and throwing stones at passing vehicles. An Egged bus was also stoned on the Latrun exit of the Shu'fat highway. Another stonethrowing incident was reported when a military vehicle was stoned at the Shu'fat Junction. In both cases there were no injuries but the vehicles' windshields were smashed.

Border Police forces were rushed to all the incidents and they restored public order.

2 Killed, 11 Wounded in Gaza

TA151358 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The number of casualties in today's disturbances in Gaza has now risen to two. The first casualty was a 17-year-old youth who was shot when an IDF patrol was attacked by a mob near Dayr al-Balah. A short time later the body of a youth from Bayt Hanun who had been shot was brought to the hospital in Gaza. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that troops patrolling the Gaza Strip are briefed individually on the circumstances allowing the opening of fire. They have been told to open fire only when their lives are in danger. Senior officers said that local residents and agitators take advantage of the restrictions imposed on the troops.

The chief of staff toured the Gaza Strip today together with the commander of the Southern Command.

Senior Military Sources on Unrest in W. Bank

TA140905 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Report by Zohar Melamed]

[Text] The reasons for the wave of riots in Judaea and Samaria are the disturbances in the Gaza Strip, pressures by hostile elements to disrupt order, and a flurry of rumors among residents regarding the activity of the security forces in the region. This was stated by senior military sources last night.

The reason which led to the disturbances yesterday and on Saturday was the death of three Balatah refugee camp residents. After the incident which led to their death rumors were spread in Nabulus in particular, and in

Judaea and Samaria in general, about IDF soldiers' conduct during the incident. The defense establishment denies rumors to the effect that IDF soldiers refused to evacuate casualties and that they entered the mosque in the refugee camp.

They say that there is an increased presence in the camp of the Al-Shabibah organization, Fatah's youth movement, which terrorizes the residents. We are prepared to remove forces from any place in Judaea and Samaria where the residents will promise to maintain public order, the sources said.

Last night 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, met with the leaders of the Jewish councils in Judaea and Samaria. Assessments were heard during the meeting to the effect that the disturbances will die out in the coming days and that quiet will be restored to the region.

E. Jerusalem Commercial Strike Over Sharon Move

TA151034 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] A steel bar was thrown at an Israeli car in Salahal-Adin Street in East Jerusalem. There were no casualties but the car was damaged. A border police patrol was rushed to the site and is now carrying out a search, our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports.

There is a full commercial strike in East Jerusalem to protest Minister Ari'el Sharon's moving into the Muslim Quarter. In the eastern part of the city, outside the city walls, all the shops are closed. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that crates of food and drink are already piled up at the entrance to Sharon's home on Market Street in preparation for the house-warming party.

AL-SHA'B Publication Banned For 12 Days

TA150621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The Civil Administration has closed down for 12 days the AL-SHA'B newspaper which appears in Jerusalem. Officials say the newspaper did not present articles on the disturbances in the territories to the censor before publication. Last Thursday, the Civil Administration closed the AL-FAJR newspaper.

Gaza Rioting Seen 'Inevitable' After Summit

TA140642 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
13 Dec 87 pp A1, 2

[Analysis by Avino'am Bar-Yosef: "Unavoidable Deterioration"]

[Text] The spark that ignited the flare-up in the territories was provided by the person who stabbed the late Shlomo Saqal in Gaza's main square early last week. The IDF's reaction and the countereactions created an inevitable chain of events in the territories, whose results could be felt in the West Bank over the last 2 days. The inflammatory material was supplied by the frustration of the PLO supporters, who can see Israel and Jordan increasing their cooperation.

The count-down in the territories started after the Amman Summit, when Jordan managed to score more points than the leader of the territories, Yasir 'Arafat, and humiliated him in front of everyone. The Israeli security forces' tough stand toward Palestinian nationalist activists this past month was regarded as being coordinated with the leaders in Amman. This is how the decision to expel Akram Haniyah, the editor of AL-SHA'B, and the administrative detentions issued against Faysal Husayni and Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, the head of the journalists union, were viewed.

The few but well-organized Jordanian supporters felt they had to exercise extra caution. Whoever happened to be around the East Jerusalem offices of the pro-Jordanian AL-NAHAR recently was surprised by the security steps taken there to safeguard the lives of the employees. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who has recently been traveling around the world quite extensively, makes sure that whenever he is in the area he is flanked by bodyguards.

Directing the anger toward the Israeli authorities as attempts are being made to mediate between Jordan and the PLO serves 'Arafat, who is trying to prove that he has the power to turn his fighters also against the king's supporters.

The stabbing of the late Shlomo Saqal made the setting off of the flare-up easier. The next day, four residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp were killed in a crash with an Israeli truck. Nationalist elements spread rumors that the driver was a relative of the stabbed man and deliberately caused the accident. The terrorist organizations enjoy a wide following in Jabalyah, and the agitation increased.

Comments on Peres' Gaza Demilitarization Plan

AL-FAJR Editorial Critical

TA111906 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
9 Dec 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Single Problem and the Only Solution"]

[Text] Israeli officials have yet to realize that despite 20 years of occupation, the Gaza Strip is an indivisible part of occupied Palestinian territory. The Strip's problems can never be resolved except through a comprehensive and just solution of the entire Palestinian problem. It is odd indeed for Israeli officials to persist in this lack of comprehension.

Every once in a while they pose their traditional questions on how to deal, separately, with the reality of the Gaza Strip occupation. Should they withdraw from there and leave the Strip to Egyptian trusteeship? Should they annex it to Israel? Should they demilitarize it and share trusteeship over it with Egypt? These questions are posed as if this Strip exists by itself with no connection to the West Bank, and as if the UN resolutions covering the Palestinian problem since 1947, in its various stages and in all its stances and shapes, have nothing to say on this subject.

The proposal by Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to evacuate and demilitarize the occupied Gaza Strip—with Egypt's cooperation as he believes—constitutes a lack of vision and an acceleration of the major obstacles to a serious effort for establishing peace in the region. This is true as well of the proposal made by other Israeli officials the day before yesterday at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee during their discussion of the murder of the Israeli citizen, Shlomo Takal, in the city of Gaza 3 days ago. This discussion revolved around annexing the Strip or returning it to Egypt

The Israeli debate over this problem will dwindle and finally disappear completely only to arise again with another incident. Israeli news media will then find their usual opportunity to convey what has already been proposed and to ignore all the existing realities.

The simple solution that will provide for the discontinuing of this cycle of disregard on top of disaster with the possibility of more immense peril, is Israel's final acknowledgment of the necessity of withdrawal from all the occupied territories. This needs to be done according to UN resolutions and through the proposed international conference, with the aim of achieving a comprehensive and just peace in all the region.

This acknowledgement will not be easy. The quest for it has exhausted several wars and is still exhausting the efforts and potentials of numerous countries without any result. We do not know what the future will hold. Nevertheless, this solution remains the only way to respond to the ignorant or those who feign ignorance. This is the only answer to those who bury their heads in the sands of disasters and calamities. They must bear in mind that the other concerned parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and specifically the Palestinian problem, have endorsed this solution and have mobilized immense international resolve in its support.

Editorial on Gaza 'Realities'

TA112000 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Complicating Matters or Showing Goodwill?"]

[Text] Yesterday was not the first time that Israeli Army soldiers have fired on defenseless residents in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. It was not the first time that female and male students, youths, and the elderly were killed and wounded in the Jabalyah refugee camp and in front of the Al-Shifa' Hospital.

A person feels sorrow at the blood that was spilled yesterday in the Strip. Anyone following the events taking place in the Strip these days cannot help but be concerned about the consequences stemming from the continued use of firearms by the IDF against innocent residents.

It is rather naive for an Israeli official to make statements interpreting the events yesterday in the Strip as a reaction to the traffic accident that occured a few days ago between an Arab and an Israeli vehicle, leading to the death of 4 Arab residents. Such an interpretation only reflects insistence by Israelis on avoiding facing the political, economic, and social realities prevailing in the Gaza Strip's towns and refugee camps. Such an interpretation, in addition to its misleading conclusions, indicates that the situation in the Gaza Strip is normal and satisfactory. This interpretation leads to the belief that had it not been for the traffic accident, the residents of Jabalyah, Al-Shati', and Dayr al-Balah would have celebrated the carnival. This is the way some Israelis interpret the events in Gaza Strip, and this is the way these Israelis want others to consider and interpret what is taking place in the occupied areas.

There are certain realities in the Gaza Strip which cannot be ignored if anyone has the basic desire to deal with these realities. This area's demographic nature, and the poor living conditions from which its inhabitants suffer, constitute a ready source of tension which is aggravated by Israeli occupation, with all that Palestinian rejection of this occupation and the desire to be liberated from it entails.

The second reality is the harsh measures adopted by the Israeli authorities against the Arab residents. These measures are called provocation in the political lexicon. What are the reasons that make the Israeli authorities decide to deport Al-Shaykh Ahmad 'Awda when these authorities possess no evidence against him? This is only one example of the policy of provocation pursued by the Israeli authorities in the occupied areas. A similar example is the 6-month administrative detention of the journalist Radwan Abu 'Ayyash.

The third reality which the Israeli authorities must put an end to is the way the IDF deals with female and male student demonstrators. IDF soldiers act as if they are in the battlefield and those confronting them are not unarmed students, but soldiers in the enemy's army. The countries of the world daily witness scores of tumultuous protest demonstrations, but the police forces deal with these demonstrations with modern methods that end with the arrest of some demonstrators, not with the killing or wounding of scores of demonstrators.

Finally, the Israelis should admit that what is taking place these days in the occupied areas is no more than a spontaneous expression of the Palestinians' rejection of all the occupation's policies and practices. Statements by Israelis that try to place the responsibility for the events in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on elements outside the occupied areas no longer have any political or analytical value.

Since what is taking place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is a local Palestinian political reaction, the Israelis must recognize these realities as a first step for drawing conclusions. The foremost conclusion is that the Palestinians have rights and that continued disavowal of these rights by the Israelis will do nothing but complicate matters.

Is Israel interested in complicating matters or showing goodwill?

Plan Called 'Impossible'

TA111108 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Dec 87 p 20

[Commentary by Middle East editor Yehuda Litani: "Gaza: Peddling Illusions"]

[Text] The Hebrew expression "go to Gaza" is another way of saying "go to hell." As we all know, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. And ironically, Shim'on Peres's latest proposal to demilitarize the Gaza Strip may in the end tighten the noose that binds Israelis and Gazans together.

There are too many questions to be asked about Peres's declaration: Was it a slip of the tongue or calculated? What does demilitarization mean in this case—IDF out, GSS in? Who will protect the General Security Service personnel—UN troops? Is it part of an overall plan for a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation in the occupied territories? Or is it a case of "Gaza first" and then we'll see?

Let's assume that the demilitarization of the Gaza Strip is part of the overall scheme for the occupied territories that was discussed recently by Peres, King Husayn, the Egyptians and the Americans. Why then reveal only the part relating to the Gaza Strip and nothing about the West Bank?

Even if the declaration was a slip of the tongue, Peres had good reason for not mentioning the rest of his plan. Unlike the West Bank, Gaza, in the minds of many Israelis, is a nightmare. The sooner we get rid of it—the better. Unlike the West Bank, the Gaza Strip raises no biblical associations—except as an enemy (Philistine) stronghold.

Nowadays, the Palestinian Arabs have replaced the Philistines. 650,000 Palestinians live in an area with the highest population density in the world. Most Israelis view Gaza as an ugly area which provides a daily supply of manual workers. Israelis very rarely visit Gaza. They are afraid of being stabbed. They have no reason to visit Gaza. Besides the security men, some journalists and a very few businessmen who have to be there, the only Israelis in Gaza are the 3,000 Israeli settlers.

But Peres is not courageous enough to reveal the overall plan. He prefers to feed the Israelis with Gaza first. It is much more easy and popular then offering them the relinquishment of the "cradle of our nation", i.e. the West Bank. Does it matter that the same dangers of the "demographic threat"—terror and civil rebellion—exist in the West Bank, possibly to a larger extent than in the Gaza Strip?

No. Because it is an election year and Peres is more than eager to win what might be his last election campaign. The Labour Party's prime concern is to win over the "floating voters." These voters, according to experts, are right of centre. So why bother then with such a tricky problem as the West Bank? Has the proposal been seriously studied? Could it really be implemented (especially in light of the almost bloody strife between pro-PLO and extreme fundamentalist Muslim elements)?

If you can't beat them, join them is the usual adage. The Israeli version of it concerning the Gaza Strip is: If you can't beat them, get rid of them. But the truth is that we cannot get rid of them. Not now. Maybe 20 or 18 years ago we could have done so by simply returning the Gaza Strip to the Egyptians. But after signing the Camp David agreement, it was more than clear that the Egyptians do not want it either. For them too it is a curse and they do not wish to be involved in any future arrangement that would tie them to that area. The Jordanians will only become involved if there is an overall settlement of the territories. They are more interested in obtaining access to the Mediterranean than in ruling 650,000 Palestinians (1 million by the year 2000), most of whom are extremely hostile—to say the least—to the Hashemite regime.

No West Bank settlement is possible under the present unity government, and the Jordanians are not so stupid as to agree over the Gaza Strip, without getting anything in the West Bank. At present, even the thought of an agreement with the PLO is beyond imagination. And so we are back to square one—stuck with Gaza.

And if you ask why Peres made his demilitarization statement this week, aware that for the time being it is impossible, the answer is that he could not resist the temptation. He is a peddler of illusions trying to sell us quack remedies for a malignant illness. As a diagnostician, Peres is rather good. But when it comes to the remedy he falters and comes up with solutions that could never work.

Is he better or worse than an obstinate prime minister who keeps saying "no" to any new idea concerning the peace process? Is it probably true to say that he is neither better nor worse, because the outcome will be just the same.

Commentary Previews Gaza Demographics in 2000

*TA131518 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 Dec 87 p 9*

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Human Time Bomb"]

[Text] As Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres engaged in a verbal clash over their declarations on the future of the Gaza Strip, I came across a most enticing research paper dealing with the Gaza Strip by the year 2000. I cannot tell whether this paper was also sent to the prime minister's office, or whether those who were on the mailing list would indeed find the time to peruse its 218 pages. The report is full of figures and charts, and it also includes highly unpleasant diagnoses regarding what Israel should expect of this hornets' nest and the trouble enveloped in this stretch of land, which is predicted to become the world's most densely-populated area.

The paper was not written by the Labor Party, or God forbid, by a research institute of leftist inclinations. It is signed by the Civilian Administration, and its brief introduction is summarized by Brigadier General Shay Erez, the former head of the Gaza Strip Civilian Administration. The report does not include a chapter on the security implications of the predicted developments in the Gaza Strip, and that is a shame. The fact that the sociological chapter deliberately refrains from discussing the question of the interdependence between the Gaza Strip and Israel and its social and political ramifications is also lamentable. Yet even without these two chapters, there is sufficient material in the paper to allow the reader to reach the gloomy conclusion that the day on which the Gaza Strip will turn into a human time bomb is imminent. I believe that the day will come when we will find ourselves begging someone to relieve us of the Strip and all its woes.

The paper is based on data published by the Census Bureau and the Central Bureau of Statistics, as well as on data provided by the Military Government and the Civilian Administration. The team that prepared the report is comprised exclusively of civilians and includes architects and urban planners, an economic adviser and a sociologist, with Moshe Ravid as team coordinator. David Kohen and Ya'aqov Tirosh were also staff members. The report includes chapters that deal with issues related to population and water, health and education systems, down to social processes and questions of sewage and sanitation.

The harshest forecast refers to the population. Although there is an argument between the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Census Bureau regarding the precise number of local inhabitants today, these differences are really negligible. In another 12 years, by the year 2000, the Gaza Strip will witness an increase of more than 50 percent in the number of its inhabitants. At the end of 1986, the number of residents (according to the population census) reached 634,000. According to a conservative statistical forecast, by the year 2000 the number of residents will reach 957,000, while the maximal forecast predicts a population of 1.053 million.

It is true that the incredibly high birth rate in the Gaza Strip will decrease somewhat, but at the same time the mortality rate will also decline. The average life span in the Gaza Strip will grow from 63 to 69 years. One of the reasons for the substantial increase in population (the net annual growth varies between 3.2 and 3.9 percent) is the drop in infant mortality—down from 150 for every 1,000 births in 1967 to 33 in 1,000 in 1986. One indication of the population growth trend is the percentage of children and youths currently residing in the Gaza Strip. Youths under 19 account for 59.1 percent of the population, and the percentage of youths in the 29-and-under age group stands at 76.9.

This wide ocean of populace, inhabiting a narrow strip of land 45 km long and between 5.5 and 12.5 km wide also hosts a group of Jewish settlers. They number 2,500, including 150 yeshiva students—a total of 0.4 percent of the overall local population. Some dream that more Jews would come one day so that the overall Jewish population in the Gaza Strip would reach 30,000, but meanwhile there are settlements whose male population numbers fewer than 15. By the time the plans materialize, if they ever do, these settlers will have already received 28 percent of the state-owned land in the Gaza Strip even though it is obvious that the population density there and the shortage of land reserves will result in a future population explosion.

Several facts attest to the danger of this explosion. They are, among others, the fact that on the average 5,000 new households are added to the Gaza population each year, but less than 40 percent of them get a housing unit. Thus, by the year 2000, 84,000 new families will be added to the Gaza Strip population, but they will be able to share only 27,000 housing units. Living conditions will admittedly improve somewhat, but the unencumbered funds will not be sufficient for housing. Besides, there are no additional land reserves. The rehabilitation of refugees, for example—a commendable campaign in which Israel has been engaged since 1972—will be rendered ineffectual because the new neighborhoods will actually turn into nothing better than new slum areas. The arable land will be limited to 148,000 dunams, down from 175,000. Another interesting development in the Gaza Strip is the marked increase in the number of privately-owned vehicles.

The harshest picture is in the sphere of the water slated not only for agriculture but also for drinking. The report indicates that water consumption will increase dramatically and that Israel will ultimately need to provide water for the Gaza Strip. "The absence of sewage recycling plants, in addition to pollution, will cause water quality to deteriorate gradually. Even today the quality of potable water in certain areas is below standard. At present, approximately 3 million cubic meters of undrinkable water are being pumped annually, while in 2000, those figures will rise to nearly 7 million cubic meters. This could cause kidney diseases and diarrhea and mainly affect children."

With such negative trends in line, with the chances for economic development virtually nil, and in view of the fact that the inhabitants' religious trends will only increase, it is not an exaggeration to think of the danger of explosion as very real. What the report fails to mention is that military control over the area will become much more difficult and will claim more lives. Facts can be ignored, and the authors of the report can be accused of defeatism, yet even if we bury our heads in the sand, clearly one day we will wake up to acknowledge a very serious reality in the Gaza Strip.

Husayn on Summit Proposal, Other Issues

JN131509 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 13 Dec 87

["Text" of interview with King Husayn by Beirut newspaper AL-SAFIR published in its 13 December issue; date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Now that a month has passed since the Arab summit, how far have your efforts gone following your visits to Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt?

Answer: The bases we laid down at the Arab summit remain, the march is proceeding quietly, and hopes are high. The summit of reconciliation and accord was a new starting point for the Arab march. I am fully confident that all the brother leaders and presidents are satisfied with what was accomplished and with our return to how we should be under all conditions and circumstances. Consequently, this stage is the stage of a new beginning and a new quiet starting point.

Question: But what are the practical measures being adopted after the summit? Has the implementation of the Amman summit resolutions begun?

Answer: Regarding implementation, relations among all brothers are good. During and after the Amman summit, the brother leaders were confident that direct dialogue should continue on the highest levels, that what was agreed upon should be implemented, and that the spirit and resolutions of the summit should be binding. What has happened is that I am constantly moving and so are my brothers. The situation is reassuring and satisfying. Perhaps this is the critical stage now because we have laid down the groundwork on which we should construct a strong building.

Question: One of the most important topics of the summit was Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation. On what bases was this reconciliation, or an initial reconciliation, formulated?

Answer: It took place as a result of a dialogue and dialogues at the level of the Iraqi and Syrian leaders at a stage preceding the convocation of the summit—the summit of reconciliation and accord—then during the summit, and later with the participation of Arab leaders. This reconciliation is a return to how relations among the Arab sisterly states, particularly Syria and Iraq, should be. The doors of Damascus are open for Baghdad and the doors of Baghdad are open for Damascus. An important matter has been consolidated at the current stage immediately after the summit: The two countries' news media stopped their campaigns against each other. The brother leaders are truly convinced that there must be constant contacts at the highest levels and that issues should gradually return to how they should be.

Question: When will the two countries restore diplomatic relations?

Answer: I believe they will certainly be restored at a later time, although there is a feeling that diplomatic relations in themselves are not the final objective. What is more important than diplomatic relations is the joint conviction that we all in the Arab homeland should work together on every level, stay in contact, and coordinate our stands with each another regarding the summit resolutions. The answer is sufficient and complete in the sense that we tell those near and far that we are one nation, that our destiny is one, that our aims are one, and that we stand in the face of all challenges and dangers threatening Arab order and Arab territory.

Question: Your Majesty, you have said that relations between Syria and Iraq are bound to be restored. Have your recent visits to Iraq and Syria produced any results in that regard?

Answer: I have come from my talks there quite reassured and encouraged. I have sensed satisfaction with the summit and a commitment to its resolutions.

Question: Will it be possible to reopen the pipeline between the two countries?

Answer: It would be premature for me to go into details. However, the beginnings are good and encouraging. We will not limit ourselves to the progress we have made; I think there is a sure determination to go forward to bring things back to normal.

Question: There has been much talk recently about a Syrian-Iraqi summit in Jordan soon. How true are such reports?

Answer: I think the road is now clear for meetings at the highest level between Syria and Iraq, not necessarily with Jordan's mediation. As I have said, the doors are open as indeed are the minds and consciences. There is a determination to move forward and create realities in Syria, Iraq, and the entire Arab homeland. These are the realities of concern for a unity of approach and joint Arab action. However, there are no arrangements at present for a meeting in Amman. Nevertheless, we are in constant contact with both Syria and Iraq and all of the Arab brethren.

Question: Despite the success of the Arab summit, some people believe the summit has reordered priorities, especially the precedence of the Arab-Israeli conflict over everything else. Some people say the Palestinian cause has become low on the list of the Arab leaders' priorities. What do you say to this?

Answer: This is not true. It is out of the question. The Palestinian cause is our central, fundamental issue. It is the cause of the Arab Palestinian right over the national Palestinian soil. It is a sacred cause. I think the Palestinian cause received the attention it deserves at the Arab summit. The bottom line of the Amman summit was to concentrate and intensify efforts and to achieve reconciliation and accord to reflect an ideal Arab picture to the outside world. It is the picture that had been absent for some time. We now sense this new reality as a result of the summit and what was agreed upon. Different reactions in various world capitals testify to this fact, as do reactions of different blocs. There is interest because there are new facts across the wide Arab homeland. Naturally, with time this state of affairs will reflect postively on all of us in terms of the Palestinian cause and all of the other causes.

Question: Has a Syrian-Lebanese-Algerian-Jordanian committee been set up to mediate and find a solution to the Lebanese crisis?

Answer: No. Such a committee has not been formed. However, there are collective Syrian and Arab efforts to support any good offices to solve the problems from which fraternal Lebanon is suffering. Before the Arab summit, the Algerian president made efforts in this regard. We in Jordan have been trying to carry out our pan-Arab duties to correct matters and to restore the correct situation in Lebanon. In other words, Lebanon should be transferred from its current situation to the solution it desires. Of course, we will remain in the picture and very close to events. It seems to me that our duty is to tell all parties in Lebanon that they must reconsider their positions. The trend, which we have experienced over the past years, should end. This trend was characterized by extremism in demands.

Every party in Lebanon should give something so that we may agree on a solution that can satisfy all Lebanese citizens, satisfy us, and satisfy our conscience toward fraternal Lebanon and its sufferings. We should not reach a point where we stop efforts to achieve a solution satisfying Lebanon and the Lebanese. We will continue our efforts to achieve this through continued contacts with the concerned brothers in Lebanon and to assist and encourage our brothers in Syria.

Question: Does Jordan intend to invite all of the Lebanese figures to listen to their views?

Answer: We met with President al-Jumayyil and, after the summit, we met with Brother Salim al-Huss. We are still contacting our brothers in Lebanon. We will spare no efforts to save Lebanon.

Question: Will your mediation center only on bringing Lebanese views closer together or will it be a larger one to deal with a Syrian-Lebanese mediation?

Answer: Fraternal Syria is qualified to play a great role in the mediation process and to bring the Lebanese brothers' views closer together. I believe Syria should be urged and supported to play that role and enable President al-Asad to pay special attention to Lebanon to achieve what he and we wish. We support every positive effort in the interest of Lebanon and the Arabs.

Question: We are fully aware of your efforts during the summit to secure a meeting between President al-Jumayyil and President al-Asad. But that meeting did not take place. You are still trying to hold that meeting. Is there any possibility of such a meeting?

Answer: I cannot answer this question. Once again, I feel that the situation in Lebanon requires every party in the dispute to reconsider its positions, to end extremism, and to contribute to achieving an accord. I want to say that Syria is different from Jordan in this regard. Syria is directly concerned with Lebanon. It is not a party in the dispute there. Syria can play a role that we cannot play. We hope Syria's efforts will produce positive resutls there. We support our brothers in Syria at the highest levels to bring views in Lebanon closer together. We will assist them to achieve a good result cherished by everyone.

Question: Many people think that the Lebanese problem was given lip service at the summit politically and economically. There was much talk at the summit that Lebanon would receive financial assistance. Why has this not materialized?

Answer: As a matter of fact, it is not true to say that Lebanon did not receive the attention it merits. I dare say it was the Lebanese issue that received the most attention during the first 2 days of the Amman summit. Regarding financial and material support, there was a proposal to set up a fund to buttress the Lebanese pound. It later emerged that the Lebanese pound's reserves were sufficient. The prevalent thinking then was that rather than launch a special fund for this purpose by certain Arab states that are members of the IMF, these reserves could be used to help Lebanon.

Regarding support on the humanitarian front, the matter was left for each individual Arab country to respond in the way it sees fit. It was clear, however, that the problem was not so much the Lebanese pound as addressing the causes that produced the currency's deterioration. These are political in nature. What needs to be tackled is the internal Lebanese situation if a quick and decisive solution is to be found. As I have said, this is achievable provided the rival factions renounce extremist positions. Then they will be able to agree and to tackle all of the tragic aspects of the crisis.

Question: Many Lebanese parties feel calling early elections would promote a reassuring situation. Do you share this assessment?

Answer: I have no comment whatsover to make on this proposal. All I have to say in this regard is that Lebanon has had more than its share of ravage and suffering. I think all the parties concerned in Lebanon should reconsider their positions and consult the country's immediate and long-term interests which coincide with those of the

Arab nation. We must cooperate so that Lebanon regains its unity and vigor and thus stands on its feet. We will bend over backwards toward that goal.

Question: Financial support for the frontline states decreed by the Baghdad summit will have run its course next year. There has been no indication since the Amman summit that financial support will be renewed. Will the frontline states receive assistance? Do the Gulf countries consider themselves frontline states as a result of the Iraq-Iran war?

Answer: The Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq are as much frontline states as we are here. In the past we were frontline states. I think the failure to make any announcements on this subject or to discuss it in detail is attributable to the circumstances of all parties. We are all experiencing real problems. However, the road is clear. Given perseverance we can solve all of the problems satisfactorily. The problems were aired. We are now in the process of addressing them. The summit was not convened to address the dimension to which you referred and that is the subject of the financial support decreed by the Baghdad summit. The point of the summit was to discuss the overall Arab situation. At the same time, each Arab party had the opportunity to present its problems and concerns, which is what actually happened. We have now reached the stage of looking into these issues to find appropriate solutions.

Question: It has been reported that you are exerting efforts to mediate between the Egyptian and Syrian leaderships. How far have these efforts reached? Do you think that restoring relations between the two countries is ruled out?

Answer: I do not think it is ruled out. I believe Egyptian-Syrian and Egyptian-Arab relations on the larger scale will inevitably be restored. This is natural. This will certainly take place sooner or later. We thank God that we are all getting closer to each other. As I have already said, the summit is a beginning and a starting point. God willing, through followup and work, and through our realization that the homeland is one and that the threat is a fact, a reality, and is posed to the Arab order in the entire homeland, I am confident we will rise to the required level to confront this challenge. Naturally, the picture will constantly improve.

Question: Your Majesty, do you think the Arabs were wrong at the Baghdad summit when they decided to sever relations with Egypt?

Answer: That was a stage in which certain circumstances dictated a certain measure. However, it was not possible for the situation to continue the way it was. If their alienation from their brothers in the Arab homeland at that time had negative results and repercussions on the overall Arab situation and the capabilities of the Arab nation as a whole, it was only natural for matters to return to normal and to the way it should always be. We are on the road to this.

Question: But how can it be justified to the Arab citizen that the restoration of relations with Egypt does not involve the Camp David accords?

Answer: In my opinion, Camp David is a matter that has ended. We are in a completely new position. Egypt's isolation or the Arab isolation from Egypt is over. That isolation was in the interest of the Arab nation's enemies. Therefore, matters should return to normal among the Arab brothers and Egypt's place is in the heart of the Arab nation. The Arab march, praised be God, has again taken its normal course. Through practice and time, God willing, inter-Arab relations will return to how they should be. Camp David, in our opinion, ended a long time ago.

It might be useful to remember that our resolution on Egypt at the Baghdad summit came as a result of the Arab nation's objection to two things brought about by the Camp David accords. The first is the Egyptian leadership's involvement at that time in a bilateral solution. The second is the principles cited in the Camp David accords about the Palestinian question. The first resulted in Egypt's restoration of its occupied territory. It is illogical for us to nullify this result. As for the second, sisterly Egypt under the leadership of brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, as is known to all, is currently supporting and backing the Arab stand toward the way to resolve the Palestinian question.

This stand is based on calling for a UN-sponsored international Middle East peace conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict and the five permanent member states of the Security Council for the sake of implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and resolving all aspects of the Palestinian question. We hope that Egypt will also participate in this conference because it assumes moral responsibilities, in addition to its absolute concern for a just solution to the Palestinian question. Moreover, its participation within this context clearly means that it has abandoned the context of the Camp David solution. Naturally, the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, will participate. Egypt is now rallying around its brothers, both Palestinians and Arabs, adopting the same stand which calls for an international conference, considering it the only way to reach a just solution.

Question: Your Majesty, several meetings were held between you and Yasir 'Arafat during the summit. There has been some improvement in the relationship following estrangement. However, it seems you did not discuss the essence of the issues. On what basis will the relationship between both of you be renewed?

Answer: We hope the relationship will continue in the future. The stand we presented to both the brothers in the PLO and to its leadership was a clear and frank stand. We worked together on the basis of a joint agreement. For our part, we still adhere to the principles of this agreement. We now focus on the issue of an international conference which should be held in accordance with the concept I proposed to tackle the Palestinian question and resolve it from all its aspects and also to implement Security Council Resolution 338. This resolution calls for the implementation of [Resolution] 242 whose preamble emphasizes the nonadmissibility of occupying a territory through war and stresses the return of land to its owners within the framework of exchanging land for peace.

We have made great steps and at one phase the PLO chose not to continue our course. There are no differences between us and the PLO nor is there a problem. If we want to work together, then the PLO should answer the question being raised; namely, whether the PLO is ready to resume talks so that we can begin them from the point at which we arrived. This question was posed to the brothers and they were given an opportunity for discussion and to make a decision and give a clear answer. We are not ready to return to square one and begin anew. We, however, are ready to resume joint action from the point at which we arrived. We will not abandon our duty to continue working on the same basis as before. This basis was the reason for our meeting just as it was one of the results of our previous meetings.

Question: Your Majesty, who is responsible for suspending the Amman agreement? Was it the PLO, the United States, or Israel?

Answer: I cannot say which party was responsible. I can only say that stopping the joint talks did not, of course, make us desist from continuing to act in accordance with the same bases which we laid down together.

Question: The PLO still insists on its condition that rejects [Resolution] 242. A short while ago you said the PLO should not return to square one. How can the relationship between you and the PLO be renewed in light of this?

Answer: We are awaiting the PLO's answer. However, there is one Security Council resolution which was unanimously adopted. Since then we have adopted both the Arab stand and demands on the basis of this resolution. This resolution discusses the issue of land and its implementation means the return to Arab sovereignty of the land occupied in 1967. Naturally, this resolution was followed by Resolution 338 which would lead to convening an international conference to implement Resolution 242. The Palestinian brothers might have been right in the previous phase when they said these resolutions do not tackle the Palestinian question. Therefore, the tackling of a solution to the Palestinian question from all its aspects was added to these two resolutions. Hence, the picture has been completed. If this is not so, then the situation remains unchanged and the Arab stand remains disunited, and the outcome will be in favor of the party that is actually taking control of the land.

Now, 20 years of occupation have passed and the outcome is not yet in the interest of the Palestinians nor is it in the interest of Arabs or Arab rights. Therefore, we insisted and focused on an international conference and on inviting the PLO on an equal footing with all parties to the conflict to implement [Resolution] 242 which is essentially based on the principle of exchanging land for peace and returning the land to its owners. We also focused on the implementation of Resolution 338 to hold an international conference and resolve the Palestinian question from all its aspects. Once an invitation is extended, all concerned parties would decide their stands on it. We do not believe that the Palestinian side, which is the main party concerned, would not respond to such an invitation. Therefore, this side would contribute, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Security Council through the participation of its five permanent members, to the work, alongside all parties to the conflict, to resolve its question.

Question: What was the PLO's response to the Jordanian position after the summit?

Answer: We are awaiting the response to hold a dialogue and to determine what to do if the response is positive.

Question: Recent reports say a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee has been set up. How true is this?

Answer: Such a committee, in fact, can be set up and can hold a meeting. But such a meeting will take place only if we know the bases of such a meeting. We are awaiting the PLO's response. Why will such a committee meet? Will it meet to continue to build on the basis of our past joint action? My answer is: Is the PLO ready to proceed from the point where we ended our joint action? If the PLO agrees to this, the committee will be set up and will meet.

Question: Recent reports say Jordan has rejected proposed U.S.-Soviet patronage of Arab-Israeli negotiations. How true is this and why?

Answer: Such a proposal called for a Jordanian-Israeli summit on the sidelines of the two giants' summit. Of course, we rejected it because it cannot be an alternative to an international conference to be attended by all parties to the dispute and the five permanent Security Council members and because such a meeting would discuss phased arrangements and not the peaceful, just, and overall solution being sought by all Arabs.

Question: You have recently rejected the U.S. Secretary of State's proposals during his tour of the region—proposals which centered on convening a regional conference in place of an international conference. Do you believe the idea of convening an international conference has now been ruled out?

Answer: No. In my view, it has not been ruled out. The majority in this world has accepted the idea because it is a realistic one for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the problem, which constitutes a base for instability in this large part of the world and affects world peace. The extremist sides in Israel oppose the idea and the United States, which is affected by the view of these sides in Israel, also opposes the idea. These sides oppose the implementation of Resolutions 338 and 242. They also reject an international conference because their concept of peace is a peace on the land they currently hold. In other words, they want to entrench the fait accompli of the occupation. Therefore, any Arab objection to Resolutions 242 and 338 will surprise us because they constitute a legitimate weapon given to us by the world and because Israel must withdraw from these lands which should return to their owners.

We must draw attention to the fact that Israel rejects implementation of Resolution 242. This can be understood in terms of Israel's expansionist policy, which is rejected by the Arabs. Hence, we insist on an Arab consensus on the need to implement 242 to foil Israel's maneuvers. If we add to that the extremely important third dimension—namely, the solution to the entire Palestine question—we will have secured all of the factors and elements required to achieve a just peace.

Question: How do you describe your current relations with the United States? Do you expect a more positive U.S. stand toward the Arabs after this summit?

Answer: I believe that most of the world's states began to reconsider their stands toward the Arabs, taking into consideration that the Arabs have met at the highest level and on the largest possible scale and that there is a new situation in the Arab homeland that necessitates a reconsideration of stands. We hope this development will be a positive one. However, regarding our bilateral relations with the United States, we say it is a superpower and we have normal relations with it although there is a disparity between our stands toward various fields and this is clear. We should always defend our rights and cause in the United States and elsewhere in this world. We do not agree except on that which we believe is in the interest of this nation's issues, destiny, and future.

Question: Do you plan to visit the United States in the near future?

Answer: No.

Question: How do you assess the USSR-U.S. summit talks on a disarmament treaty, the region's conflicts, the Israeli-Arab conflict, and the Gulf war? It has been said that you and President Mubarak sent a message to the summit.

Answer: We did not send a message. However, regarding the Amman summit, certain resolutions were adopted and the summit's chairmanship sent messages to the UN Security Council's five permanent members and to regional blocs in various parts of the world. These messages included the summit resolutions. Our envoys are still continuing their missions to convey and explain these messages to all sides. The results we have received thus far indicate that these resolutions were received with the interest and appreciation they deserve and have created a new situation.

However, regarding the meeting between the U.S. and Soviet leaders, I believe as is known this meeting focused on tackling nuclear arms and the nuclear threats to the world. We believe this dimension cannot be handled without discussing the hot issues which are some of the factors of world instability. When will these issues be discussed? We do not know when. However, I will continue to present this issue. My visit to the USSR will begin on 21 December. I believe it will be an important visit, especially in light of the Arab summit resolutions.

Question: Do you plan to once again purchase weapons from the USSR?

Answer: We purchased weapons from the USSR in the past. Regarding weapons, we have made a decision to confront the difficulties that have faced us and the stands which we believed were unacceptable. And in fact, we believe they were unacceptable. We went to Europe and the USSR. We have actually received Soviet as well as European weapons. Our relations in this field are good and constant. We search for what we need to obtain the best we can use in building our intrinsic power, which is part of the Arab force, and in confronting all challenges.

Question: During your visit to Moscow, your view on the joint [Palestinian-Jordanian] delegation and confederation may be discussed. What will your stand be on these issues?

Answer: I believe the time is not ripe now to discuss the details because this is the first meeting I will have with the Soviet leadership after a long time. Of course, there is a new situation in the USSR. I will be glad to answer this question after I return.

Question: We know the USSR had opposed the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the concept of a joint delegation.

Answer: I do not know exactly what the USSR's stand is. However, we have excellent relations with the USSR. In the past we occasionally had differences. However, our experience throughout past years has deepened both sides' credibility regarding their stands. Consequently, I can say that there is no disparity between our stands from a principled viewpoint. The bases are now good and our relations are good. However, I cannot currently provide any answers regarding my upcoming visit to the USSR.

Question: Regarding the Gulf war, how do you view its developments and the prospects for ending it? What about Security Council Resolution 598?

Answer: There is the call for implementing Security Council Resolution 598 and for ending the war in the interest of the Arabs and Iranians equally. However, before this, and whether the subject is one of Iranian, Israeli, or any other side's threat to Arab territory and Arab order, we cannot actually be reassured about our ability to confront these threats and challenges except through a unified Arab stand, a true solidarity, cooperation, and assumption of a joint responsibility by all of us in the face of these challenges. I believe that since the summit we have started to walk along the road followed by our fathers and ancestors. Our realization of the dimensions of this road led to the establishment of the Arab League and the conclusion of the Collective Defense Pact. Regrettably, there was a time when we reached a stage of loss. I think we have now passed that stage and returned to the bases and fundamentals which will enable us to make the world, including Iran and others, reconsider its calculations.

Question: In the past there was much talk about secret contacts and meetings between you and Israel. Jordan repeatedly denied this. What is the Israeli purpose behind disseminating such news?

Answer: I think I can answer this question by stating that the only place, the only sphere, and the only framework for any negotiations with Israel is an international conference. We have repeatedly stated this and will always repeat it until a meeting is held on the level of an international conference where all issues can be discussed. We hope the result will be the attainment of peace in this part of the world and the resolution of the Palestine question.

Question: The Israelis say that following the Amman summit the Arabs backed down on the Baghdad summit resolution to sever relations with Egypt and the door opened for Jordan to embark on direct negotiations with Israel. What do you say in reply to this?

Answer: I say there is no way to resolve the Palestine question and deal with all aspects of this question, including the termination of the Arab-Israeli conflict, except through an international conference and in the manner I described. The Baghdad summit resolution came during a certain circumstance to deal with a certain situation. That same circumstance led to a weakness from which we all, Egyptians and Arabs, have suffered for some time. It was our duty to face up to reality and attain a situation under which matters return to how they should be within the Arab family. We are on our way to achieve this and this means further strength and a greater Arab ability to confront all challenges. That stage is over and we are now in a new stage.

Husayn Interviewed on Gulf War, Arab Ties

JN121719 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
11 Dec 87 pp 3, 7

[Interview with King Husayn by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' "in King Husayn's plane during a flight from Amman to Cairo" on 6 December]

[Text] Question: What is the current situation on the Iraqi front in light of recent Iranian concentrations and threats to launch a new offensive against Iraq?

King Husayn: I think the situation is good. Throughout the past years Iraq has offered and given a great deal in defense of the Arab nation and Arab dignity. On many occasions Iraq asserted its readiness to confront the anticipated aggression. I hope we will all rise in support of Iraq and in defense of every inch of Arab territory. I believe the Iraqi position can be boosted by a collective Arab stand. Iraq will then be more capable of steadfastness and confrontation. Iran, as well as anyone else considering aggression against any part of the Arab homeland, would then realize that it is not facing one Arab country but the whole Arab nation. We will then be in a position enabling us to positively contribute to an end to this war as soon as possible.

Question: What will the Arab states do to enable Iraq to hold out in the face of the Iranian defiance of the Arab nation?

King Husayn: I believe there should be contacts, consultations, and discussions, and, naturally, insistence on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. The brother Arab leaders should be in constant contact to follow up the situation and confront developments. This confrontation may require further Arab meetings so that all will know that the Arab nation is one nation, that its soil is dear to it, and that it is prepared to sacrifice in defense of the Arab territory.

Question: Can these measures go as far as undertaking joint military action?

King Husayn: At present I cannot say more than what I have already said. However, if this nation is faced with a threat against its terrritories and the future of its generations, it will certainly take a stand in which the whole Arab homeland becomes one hand to repel this aggression and this danger.

Question: What are Your Majesty's expectations regarding the expansion of war and its effects on other Arab states following the repeated Iranian threats against Kuwait in particular and following Tehran's escalation of its information and political campaign against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

King Husayn: I think the situation is serious and requires all of us to stand on the side of our brothers and give a real meaning to Arab solidarity.

Question: Many political analyses, particularly in Western Europe, say the Gulf war now requires the intervention of the two superpowers or their agreement to settle the conflict inside or outside the United Nations. What are Your Majesty's expectations on the success of the efforts being exerted by the United Nations to reach a settlement?

King Husayn: I hope these efforts will succeed and I believe the summit of reconciliation and accord had a positive effect. However, what specifically concerns us is the Arab position and that we should do what we should do. Then, we will undoubtedly look at others. The Soviet Union and the United States are required to do a great deal for the sake of ending the war. We also expect the Security Council and the five permanent member states to do a great deal to end this war and implement Security Council Resolution 598.

Question: Do you think the Gulf war will have an advance priority during the Washington summit between Reagan and Gorbachev?

King Husayn: I think it will head the regional issues the two leaders will discuss. As for us, however, we contacted the permanent member states at the Security Council and informed them of the Arab summit resolutions. Besides the Security Council's five permanent member states we contacted the international blocs in various parts of the world.

Question: An almost unanimous vote by the UN General Assembly emerged in favor of an international Mideast peace conference. Only the United States and Israel cast negative votes. Given Yitzhak Shamir's opposition and the U.S. position, how do you rate the chances for convening a conference?

King Husayn: A determined Arab stand, Arab solidarity, and being serious not just in terms of making decisions but in enforcing and following them up, as well as in ensuring forward movement in defending our cause and Arab rights, would add up to the required pressure to convene a conference. An international conference is the only forum where a peaceful, just, and honorable solution may be found to this problem.

Question: His Majesty King Hassan wants the frontline states, Jordan and Syria, and the Palestinians, to get together, set their differences aside, and prepare for an international conference by exchanging papers or adopting the theory of the minimum and maximum. [sentence as published] They may invite other Arab parties to join in conference preparations. What is Your Majesty's opinion of this?

King Husayn: There is coordination between frontline states. Then, there is the Arab summit resolution, approved by all Arab leaders and the PLO , on an international conference. I believe that if we move from our recent summit to an international conference phase, we must pursue our contacts and dialogue among ourselves to reach our goals and aspirations. However, right now we don't need to do more than we are currently doing. Of course, we are interested in comprehensive coordination. We are currently focusing on an international conference. We want attendance at the conference by all the Arab countries bordering Israel and the PLO as an equal partner.

Invitations to attend the conference should be on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 338, in effect meaning enforcement of Security Council Resolution 242, providing for the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the formula of land in exchange for peace. It also entails acceptance of these two resolutions by all the parties attending the conference and the resolution of the Palestinian question in all of its aspects. When invitations are sent to all of the parties, I hope the Arab position will, God willing, have crystallized and we will then work together in the interest of a just and permanent peace.

Question: Your Majesty, do think the two superpowers will stress the inevitability of holding an international conference or do you think the Middle East crisis is no longer the flash point that should be addressed now?

King Husayn: No sir, it is undoubtedly a flash point. I think that in the logical sequence it should be discussed after nuclear disarmament and the nuclear threat to the world and humanity. Hot issues that pose a threat to stability and peace should be addressed. I think it is natural for hot issues to be considered and that there will be serious attempts to solve these problems or contribute to their solution.

Question: Cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in all spheres is now exemplary. Can it be held up as a new formula for true Arab integration to overcome the stagnation which the Arab League has reached? Can other countries join this fruitful, bilateral realtionship between Jordan and Egypt?

King Husayn: True enough, relations between Egypt and Jordan are exemplary and ideal. However, the Arab League must remain the wide framework encompassing the Arab march. There should be a real commitment to the principles on which the Arab League was founded and which have guided us and continue to guide us in various stages of the history of the Arab nation. We must now make a new, vigorous, and purposeful take off. We must continually search for that which ensures our march forward. Let all of us do our duty not only for ourselves and the present, but also for the future of the Arab nation.

Question: To what extent has the European role developed with regard to the issue of convening an international conference for peace in light of your contacts with European countries?

King Husayn: I believe the European role is very positive. We find that the EC supports the convening of an international conference. The EC realized and understands that an international peace conference is the proposed formula and the only way to resolve the issue fairly and honorably. Consequently, I believe Europe is a positive and pressing factor in efforts to convene an international conference.

Question: What about recent contacts with the United States?

King Husayn: The United States still adheres to its stand, rejecting the idea at this stage. However, we believe this stand can be changed. The U.S. stand is in fact the stand of the extremist Israeli right-wing. People cannot differentiate between the two stands.

Question: Will 1988 see certain steps toward convening an international conference?

King Husayn: To be realistic, I cannot say anything at this stage. The idea has been proposed and we should continue our attempts to gain support for convening an international conference. If we face a problem in achieving this meeting, which we consider important and effective toward resolving the cause, the obstacles are in Israel and the United States. However, this stand might change as a result of intensifying efforts and crystallizing an Arab stand so that we give the entire world the impression that the Arab nation is one nation confronting all challenges.

Question: An opinion inside the United States says the idea of an international conference will be frozen until after the presidential elections next year.

King Husayn: Ahead of us in fact are the elections in the United States. Until the elections are conducted, however, a positive development might occur that will help the convening of a conference.

Question: Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said after the summit that an agreement was reached with Your Majesty to resume contacts through the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations. Can you shed light on developments in Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

King Husayn: I held a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We talked frankly and clearly about the Arab nation's issues. We cannot return to square one and start over again. We are continuing on the ground we built together through the Jordanian-Palestinian accord to enable the PLO to assume its role in representing the Palestinian people to reach a just, honorable solution to the Palestinian issue. Yasir 'Arafat left [Amman] provided he returns and contacts us after discussing the subject with Palestinian officials, according to the various trends in the PLO, and says to us yes or no. We are ready to proceed from the point we reached first. If he is now talking about a meeting of committees, in my opinion the committees will meet when we receive frank, clear answers.

Question: What comes after the uprising in the occupied territory, in West Bank and Gaza, which took place recently? How does Your Majesty view the Arab role in confronting Israeli repression of such consecutive uprisings?

King Husayn: The uprising is natural. The kinfolk in the occupied territory have endured a great deal throughout the years. Therefore, the continuation of the present state of affairs without seeking a solution to the cause in a just and honorable way through an international conference will result in exacerbating the situation and despair. Extremism will then gain new ground at the expense of those who do not think of the short-term but about the future and the coming generations, as well as about maintaining their interests. The continuation of the present state constitutes a real danger not only to the occupied territory, but also to the entire region and world peace.

Question: Your Majesty, do you see any realistic way out of the Lebanese dilemma in view of the sanguinary clashes that help perpetuate the situation in Lebanon which is tragic in the full sense of the word?

King Husayn: The deterioration in Lebanon must stop and all the parties concerned in Lebanon should realize the future requirements of the Lebanese people. All parties must realize that adopting an extremely hardline position cannot solve problems. Therefore, a dialogue should be based on rationalism and on the need for each party to give a certain concession to reach a new reasonable formula. I believe the Syrian brothers have a large duty in contributing toward promoting these efforts and solving the Lebanese problem.

Question: Your Majesty, how do you view the effects the restoration of ties between Egypt and several Arab states will have on the future of joint Arab action?

King Husayn: I believe it is a positive and a natural development and that it will lead to further cohesion, rapprochement, and cooperation in the interest of the Arab nation and march.

Question: After his meeting with Shim'on Peres in Ifrane, King Hassan II told his people: There is an enemy in control of an Arab land and this is not fiction but fact. I must deal with this fact.

What is Your Majesty's opinion? Do you think these meetings are beneficial?

King Husayn: Sir, Israel is a reality. We recognized this reality when we accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967 and we proceeded from this until we reached the resolution which we adopted at the summit on the Middle East problem. My answer to this question is that we cannot proceed with the march of dialogue except through an international conference. All parties to the dispute, including the PLO, will be represented at this conference. The process will be supervised by the permanent member-states of the UN Security Council. This is the framework which will lead to action with the aim of reaching a comprehensive, just peace not only for us but also for future generations. The process of negotiations and other processes will not be performed except through an international conference. That is what we said.

Question: His Majesty King Husayn has said: With its weight and power, Egypt's return to the Arab League's decisionmaking process will be more beneficial to the Arab nation than the restoration of bilateral relations. Your Majesty, are you still of the opinion that the Arab League can be a sound basis for joint Arab action? If it becomes necessary to amend the Arab League's Charter or bylaws, what will your opinion be and what are the most important amendments that you would like to see introduced?

King Husayn: I believe the Arab League should remain the large framework that gathers the Arab nation within a unified march. However, it was obvious in the latest meeting and several weeks before that the work of the Arab League as an establishment should be revised. It was obvious that we should revise our roles toward the Arab League to make it effective in terms of joint Arab action. I say that within this large framework we should cooperate and discuss aspects of our cooperation within joint Arab action. We should meet in groups to have objective discussions and find the appropriate formulas for work and for imparting new life to the Arab League.

Question: I must pose this question once again. Your Majesty, despite all of the complications of the settlement process in the Middle East through an international peace conference, Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is an indispensable factor for giving momentum to this process. Your Majesty, do you believe the diferences which led to the fall of the 11 February agreement 1 year after it was signed can be overcome? How do you view the formula of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

King Husayn: We posed this question during the summit conference, although the answer is well known to all of us. Is the Palestinian question a pan-Arab or a regional issue? If it is a pan-Arab one, we will continue our march and if it is a regional one, we and our Arab brothers may take another position. We do not believe it is a regional issue. We believe it is a pan-Arab one. If it had been a regional issue, Jordan would not have had a problem other than several occupied kilometers of land. From the beginning, Jordan has been exerting its efforts to enable the Palestinians to regain rights on their soil. We face an unsurmountable obstacle and we do not believe it can be easily overcome. We hope the PLO, which represents the Palestinian people, will accept another formula. We and our Palestinian brothers believe that the only acceptable formula is a joint delegaton, that an invitation must be simultaneously extended to Jordan and the PLO to attend an international conference, and that the consultations must be real and realistic.

We in Jordan are shouldering our responsibilities to create a position for the PLO to exercise its right to represent the Palestinian people regarding the Palestine question and an overall solution. We want to use the joint delegation as a means to assist the PLO and achieve its goals by solving this problem on a just and honorable basis. In fact, there are no differences. We have reached a certain point with them but the Palestinian side retreated. We cannot discuss new formulas again.

We expect our brothers to start from our last position. We are ready to begin from that position again because we in Jordan adhere to our previous positions that followed the PLO's retreat. We also adhere to the same bases we have reached regarding the international conference. We believe an invitation should be extended to the PLO, which must participate in our efforts on an equal footing to deal with the issue.

Question: What is the list of priorities for joint Arab action and what is the future of this action following the Amman summit?

King Husayn: The list of priorities includes first caring for what has already been achieved through continued contacts at the Arab leaders level and also encouraging Arab leaders to hold contacts among themselves. We hope that the convening of Arab summits will be a constant periodic process, that the leaers will assume their responsibilities directly by holding contacts with each other, and that these leaders will be interested in promoting the march. Then, we will naturally consider what can be done in view of the changing circumstances to achieve further solidarity, not only solidarity in feelings but also in efforts that will inevitably lead to a new situation with which every Arab will be satisfied and, consequently, his reassurance about his present and future will be increased.

Question: To what extent do you expect the success or failure of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit and its effect on achieving a so-called Soviet-U.S. nuclear accord and the ramifications of such an accord on both our Arab countries and their issues?

King Husayn: I expect success concerning the dimension they are currently discussing. I also expect them to first focus on hot problems and world issues, including the problems we are encountering in this part of the world. If we are waiting for the summit to be particularly interested in our Arab state of affairs to the degree we are hoping for in our Arab homeland, then it is in reorganizing our ranks that we will be able to compel the world to respect us and to deal with us on a basis completely different from previous years.

Question: Following the recent Arab summit of reconciliation and accord in Amman, Your Majesty held contacts to follow up what was attained at the summit between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad to complete the Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation. What are the results of these efforts thus far?

King Husayn: I believe reconciliation was achieved in the meeting held at the summit of reconciliation and accord. As for the visits to both Damascus and Baghdad, they only aimed at holding contacts with the brothers. I will continue my contacts with the brothers in the Arab homeland with the aim of holding consultations, discussing all fateful issues of concern to us, and enhancing the march of Arab solidarity as much as possible. I believe Damascus' doors are open to Baghdad and that Baghdad's doors are now open to Damascus. I have no personal link to any contacts being held between Baghdad and Damascus at present, but I hope and believe that the contacts between the two countries will increase in the near future.

Question: Is it true Syria has not changed its stand toward both Iran and the Gulf war? What is the effect of this on the Arab solidarity attained at the summit in terms of supporting Iraq in the Gulf war?

King Husayn: Concerning this particular aspect, Syria contributed to making the Arab summit a success. Moreover, the president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Brother Hafiz al-Asad, personally contributed to its success, and Syria was committed to the resolutions formulated at this summit.

Question: Will the Iraqi and Syrian presidents meet soon?

King Husayn: I don't know, but I hope that they will meet and that a dialogue will continue between them. I also hope that they will enhance ties between them to bolster Arab solidarity. I would like to say that there is no mediation between them and that the doors are now open for dialogue between the two countries. Moreover, contacts are openly and directly held between them.

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives, Makes Statement

JN141930 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and RCC member, arrived in Amman this evening to lead the Iraqi side in the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Joint Committee, which will begin in Amman tomorrow. Ramadan was received at Amman Airport by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, the Amman mayor, the Amman governor, the director of public security, the chief of staff, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Amman, the Iraqi ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior officials. In a statement to the press, Ramadan said:

[Begin recording] [Ramadan] We are satisfied with the fact that the higher committee is proceeding with excellent steps to establish and promote bilateral relations on sound bases within a pan-Arab framework. In other words, the two countries view any joint action as part of the pan-Arab trend. We want these relations to be an example for more expanded relations among the Arab countries. To prove this, I can say that Egypt has become a party in the field of transportation. We believe it will also participate in other fields. Other Arab countries can also take part in this. We are satisfied with what has been achieved. In my view and in the view of our brothers in Jordan, we are still at the beginning. But what is important is that this is a sound beginning.

[Unidentified reporter] Sir, what about the situation on the front?

[Ramadan] I can say that the situation on the front today is better than yesterday. In accordance with the current program, it will be better tomorrow. By the front, we mean the forward line and the internal front because the two are one front, which is continuing to develop. Time helps us to develop our capabilities, God willing. [end recording]

The Iraqi delegation includes Transportation and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah, Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nuri Isma'il, and Industry Ministry Under Secretary Usamah 'Abd al-Razzaq.

Confers With Prince, Al-Rifa'i

JN151124 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Amman, 15 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met with Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i here today. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the agenda of the Higher Iraqi-Jordanian Joint Committee and ways to promote cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all fields. Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah and Jordanian Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani attended the meeting.

Crown Prince Hasan also received Taha Yasin Ramadan. They reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them. Ramadan arrived here yesterday on a visit to Jordan lasting several days at the head of the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Higher Iraqi-Jordanian Joint Committee.

PLO's Al-Wazir Arrives for Joint Meetings

JN150754 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], 'Arafat's military aide, arrived in Amman yesterday. Abu Jihad and Marwan Dudin, Jordanian minister of occupied territories, will take part in the meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee scheduled to begin today.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i Returns 13 Dec

JN131935 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman this evening having accompanied His Majesty King Husayn on his current tour which took Al-Rifa'i to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE. The prime minister attended the talks which His Majesty King Husayn held with his brother leaders in these countries. On hand to see him at the airport were Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali and a number of their excellencies the ministers.

The prime minister will head Jordan's delegation to meetings of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi higher committee scheduled to begin tomorrow, Monday. The Iraqi delegation will be headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and Iraqi RCC member, and is scheduled to arrive in Amman tomorrow.

Officials Confer With UN's Marrack Goulding

JN131529 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] His highness the regent has received Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs. During the meeting, they discussed international endeavors to achieve peace in the Middle East through an international peace conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict, as well as the five permanent Security Council members. They also discussed efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri attended the meeting. Al-Masri also held a meeting with Goulding, which was attended by senior Foreign Ministry officials.

The UN under secretary general for special political affairs arrived in Amman this morning on a visit to Jordan as part of a regional tour. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Goulding said he will hold consultations with Jordanian officials on convening an international peace conference in the Middle East and review ways and means to promote the peace process in the region. He added there are numerous signs and developments that would result in holding such a conference. He pointed to the resolution recently adopted by a large majority at the UN General Assembly. This resolution calls for convening an international peace conferce. He said he held talks with the Israelis on holding an international peace conference and on the situation in southern Lebanon, pointing out there are sharp differences within the Israeli Government over convening such a conference.

Goulding voiced concern over the incidents in the occupied West Bank and over the clashes between citizens and the occupation forces, which affirm the need to exert more efforts to bring about a final settlement of the Palestine question.

Pirzada Condemns Israeli Measures in W. Bank

JN140845 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
14 Dec 87 pp 1, 3

[By Najwa al-Najjar]

[Text] Amman—The secretary-general of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Sunday strongly condemned Israeli measures against Palestinians in the occupied territories and called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility to ensure that the rights of the Palestinian people to seek liberation are not trampled upon by the occupation forces.

"We salute the brave struggle of the Palestinian people against the occupation," said Sharifuddin Pirzada. "We also deeply grieve their losses and send our heartfelt condolences to them," he said in an interview with the JORDAN TIMES. The OIC secretary general, who was in Amman for talks on preparations for a meeting of OIC foreign ministers to be held here in next March, was referring to the violent protests raging in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. At least eight Palestinian protesters, including women and children, have been shot dead by Israeli soldiers since last Wednesday.

A formal statement issued by the OIC headquarters in Jeddah on Sunday urged the United Nations to intervene to protect Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It called on the United Nations and all "peace-loving forces to respond to their moral and legal responsibility towards the Palestinian people." The statement, excerpts of which were carried by REUTER, condemned "the Zionist terrorist aggression against the people of Palestine in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in the Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon." The OIC statement urged the United Nations to help to secure the release of Palestinian journalist Radwan Abu Iyas. The statement also called for the release of another Palestinian held without trial, Faysal Husayni of Jerusalem. It said both men were arrested without justification.

In his interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Mr. Pirzada rejected Israeli contentions equating the Palestinian struggle with terrorism and said: "We condemn terrorism but a national liberation struggle is different. In fact, terrorism is manifested in the practices adopted by Israel and South Africa. We support the national liberation struggle of Palestinians and black South Africans since both people are trying to secure their right to self-determination," he said.

Mr. Pirzada was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan on Sunday. The foreign minister, Mr. Tahir al-Masri, held talks with the OIC secretary-general on Saturday.

Mr. Pirzada, who left Amman later Sunday, also condemned Israel for rejecting international efforts for settling the Palestinian problem and reaffirmed the OIC's support for the Arab call for an international conference under U.N. auspices and attended by the five members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to work out a settlement.

Mr. Pirzada also denounced what he described as the use of the concept of human rights to increase the Jewish population in the Israeli-occupied territories. "The OIC calls for international adherence to human rights," he reaffirmed. "But, what concerns us most is the use of the slogan of human rights to allow for Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union and settle in the occupied territories at the expense of the Palestinian people," he said.

Asked what the OIC was doing to help the Palestinian people and their struggle, Mr. Pirzada noted that the main aims of the organisation were to promote Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian cause and work towards liberating the occupied territories and Jerusalem. "We cooperate with various international organisations towards achieving the goal of liberating (the occupied territories) and the holy places" under Israeli control, he said. "The Security Council is often our only option since Israel is well entrenched and continues to reject any move towards peace," he said.

He noted that the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East enjoys the backing of the U.N. General Assembly. "The trouble is that Israel, with backing from the U.S. has rejected the (General Assembly) resolution," he pointed out.

Mr. Pirzada believes that the superpowers are cashing on the Arab World's lack of unity. Referring to the recent superpower summit, Mr. Pirzada said the results were welcome steps to the extent that they eliminate a class of nuclear weapons. "However, we saw no tangible results achieved on the Middle East, the Gulf war nor Afghanistan," he said.

The scheduled meeting of OIC foreign ministers in March was discussed by Mr. Pirzada and Crown Prince Hasan on Sunday. Mr. Pirzada said that the main issues on the agenda for the meeting would be the Gulf war, the Palestinian problem, Afghanistan, problems in African countries and cooperation among Islamic countries.

An invitation will be sent to Iran and the necessary efforts will be made to induce the Iranians to participate, he said. "Usually they (the Iranians) attend the meeting of foreign ministers which is held annually," he said. Iran did not attend the last OIC summit, held in Kuwait.

Cabinet Endorses Higher Committee Minutes

JN141039 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Dec 87 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (PETRA)—The Cabinet met on Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali and endorsed the minutes of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meetings held in Cairo earlier this month. The joint committee ended the two-day meeting by agreeing to sign a barter trade agreement later this month. The barter deal provides for Jordan to sell Egypt cement, raw materials for detergents, wool, and glass, and buy Egyptian rice, cotton and ammonia nitrate. The barter deal was part of the two countries' agreement on promoting bilateral economic and trade ties. [passage omitted]

Paper on Europe's 'Hypocritical Methods'

JN130907 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Dec 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Battle for Peace"]

[Text] Israel and its principal ally, the United States, have continued to reject the only peace opportunity in the Middle East through their rejection, the day before yesterday, of the resolution passed by the UN General Assembly calling for an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East.

The Israeli rejection, backed by the United States, has influenced the European stand. The European group has resorted to hypocritical methods, demonstrated by the disparity between the European group's positive stand in Brussels—and the stand every European country subsequently adopted in joint statements with many countries in the world, including those of the Middle East—and the European group's recent stand at the United Nations. By abstaining on the resolution, the European group has retracted its stand and demonstrated it's subservience to the United States. Its stand serves those who reject the only peace opportunity and cannot be viewed as objective.

The Euroepans have confirmed their subservience to the United States twice: first on the eve of the conclusion of the INF agreement between the superpowers, as they had no say on this issue, and again in their stand on the resolution calling for an intertnational conference. Their recent stand will contribute to blocking the sound path toward a comprehensive, just, and peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The international support, shown by the majority of 134 votes, the United Nations has recorded for the Jordanian resolution is one of the principal bases for pursuing the battle for peace and besieging the forces that oppose it, no matter how arrogant they are. The Arabs are concerned with peace because they want to regain their rights and protect their homeland and future generations. However, the battle for peace can be won only if further mobilization and Arab solidarity are achieved and if strong political cards are made available enabling the Arabs to submit a forceful case. This can take place by uniting Arab interests to exert pressure whereby the Arabs can mold international stands to serve Arab causes.

If Israel continues to remain committed to extremism and aggression, to insist on occupying the land, and to turn its back on peace, the Middle East situation will remain volatile and the upheaval of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories will continue to be normal because it will be a reaction to the state of despair Israel seeks to instill in their hearts.

Peace is never given to the weak but is always wrested by the strong. This fact should be the guideline for Arab action. Only then will the international conference be mroe easily convened and the voice of peace heard.

AL-LIWA' Cited on Relase of Foreign Hostages

LD151059 Paris Domestic Service in French
0900 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Excerpt] It is perhaps the end of the nightmare for the last of the French hostages being detained in Lebanon. According to the newspaper AL-LIWA', a conservative Muslim newspaper, all the French hostages, as well as a U.S. professor and Terry Waite, the Anglican Church envoy, will soon be released in West Beirut. The newspaper cites reliable diplomatic sources to support these statements. Technical arrangements will be made before the hostages are released. [passage omitted]

Cameroon Allegedly Arrests 80 Nationals

'Illegal Activities' Cited

NC140728 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0645 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] According to the L'ORIENT LE JOUR newspaper, the Cameroonian authorities have arrested some 80 Lebanese for engaging in illegal activities. According to preliminary reports, these activities include the opening of unauthorized offices for Lebanese military organizations. Some of the Lebanese are also charged with running huge monopolies in the trade and services sectors.

The move is seen as a sign of Cameroonian displeasure with the PSP decision to send mercenaries to fight alongside the Libyans in Chad.

In another press report, the AL-LIWA' paper says that Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, last night telephoned the Lebanese Embassy in Abidjan, which takes care of Lebanese interests in Cameroon, and inquired about the arrests.

Ambassador, Al-Jumayyil Confer

NC141627 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The arrest of Lebanese nationals in Cameroon has been receiving the utmost attention. Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, held consultations on the issue with President Amin al-Jumayyil and acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. It has been decided to ask Lebanese Ambassador to Sierra Leone William Habib to travel immediately to Cameroon to tackle the situation. He will remain in contact with the Foreign Ministry to keep it posted on any developments.

According to new information, the arrests have not been confined to Lebanese nationals in Yaounde. Certain Lebanese nationals have also been apprehended in Ngaoundere, where some 20 Lebanese families have lived and done business for 40 years. The Cameroonian authorities have banned the entry into or departure from the country of any Lebanese nationals. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, several Lebanese families living in northern Cameroon on the border with Chad have been placed under house arrest. This afternoon Ambassador al-Turk received representatives of the Lebanese community in Cameroon, who called for swift action to secure the release of the detainees. Contacts with Lebanese residents in Cameroon yesterday did not explain the reason for the arrests.

12 Detainees Released

NC150704 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] An informed Lebanese source in Yaounde has reported that the Cameroonian authorities have released 12 of the 26 Lebanese nationals they had arrested recently. The source revealed that no charges had been leveled against the detained individuals and that their stores, which had been closed down, will be reopened today. The remaining Lebanese citizens under detention will undergo further interrogation today. The same source noted that no charges had been leveled against them.

Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 13 Dec

NC140603 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Italian Deputy Foreign Minister (Julberto Bonani) arrived in Beirut yesterday. He will meet with President Amin al-Jumayyil today. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks Withs Al-Jumayyil

NC141304 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] European interest in Lebanon's political and economic conditions was manifested today in the series of meetings which the visiting Italian delegation held with the country's leaders.

(Julberto Bonani), the Italian delegation's leader and deputy foreign minister, began his activities by visiting B'abda Palace this morning. [passage omitted]

After meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil, the Italian official said: We discussed both general and specific political issues. We reiterated the Italian Government's stand calling for facilitating Lebanon's reconstruction so that it may again become an independent and united country. We consider Lebanon's peace an important part of the Mediterranean states' peace. We discussed the situation in a fully practical way, taking into consideration the status quo on the bilateral level and on the EC and UN levels.

He added: The Italian Government has informed President al-Jumayyil that it is committed to resolving all aspects of the Lebanese issue. It is prepared to implement this commitment and to translate it into tangible deeds.

When asked about the aid which Italy intends to extend to Lebanon, the Italian delegation's leader stated: The aid will cover research projects in the fields of agriculture, potable water, and schools. [passage omitted]

Qasir, Soviet Official View Barter Agreement

NC141551 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Victor Qasir, minister of economy, trade, industry, and oil, chaired a meeting today that was attended by Soviet trade representative (Sergey Simerinov) and his assistant, as well as a number of officials from the Lebanese Foreign and Industry Ministries. The discussion focused on the barter trade agreement, totaling $10 million for each side, that the Soviet Government has proposed to the Lebanese Government. They also talked about the Soviet trade delegation's upcoming visit to Lebanon at the end of January, which will be led by the Soviet deputy foreign trade minister.

Minister Qasir proposed that oil and oil by-products be among the barter commodities if Lebanon cannot purchase other commodities. It was agreed that this subject would be discussed during the Soviet trade delegation's visit to Lebanon.

Goulding, Al-Jumayyil Discuss UNIFIL Status

NC150926 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, arrived in Beirut at 1100 today. He was received by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, who discussed with him the state of UNIFIL in the south and the Middle East peace conference.

UNIFIL Says 'No Unusual Activity' in South

NC141229 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] In the south, UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel has asserted that UNIFIL has monitored no sign that Israel is planning a military operation there, despite foreign media reports that Israel is amassing troops on the border. Goksel said that no unusual activity has been noticed in the areas where UNIFIL maintains a presence.

It should be recalled that acting Deputy Prime Minister Salim al-Huss is cited in today's issue of the AL-LIWA' newspaper as saying: We are waiting for fuller reports from UNIFIL before we take appropriate action with regard to the Israeli buildup in the south and in western Al-Biqa'.

Israeli Warplanes Fly Over Sidon, Camps 15 Dec

NC150824 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Sidon and Palestinian camps while reconnoitering armed positions in the region this morning.

SSNP Sources on Amal-Israeli Contacts

NC141845 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Informed sources in the Higher Council of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP], which is chaired by Jubran Juraysh, have been cited as having said that, following the Qiryat Shemona operation, Dawud Dawud, the Amal Movement's official in the south, left for Israel by sea. Once there, he met with Israeli intelligence officers and discussed a number of matters with them, focusing on the need for the Amal Movement to take the necessary measures in the area between the security zone and Sidon in order to prevent the Palestinians from carrying out any armed action. They also discussed Amal's undertaking to ensure that the Israeli forces will not face any resistance in that area should a decision be made to invade the it again.

The same sources added that contacts between Amal and the Israelis are continuing so that they can agree on a plan for security arrangements in the south. Amal would ensure Palestinian withdrawal from east of Sidon, Iqlim al-Kharrub, and Al-Shuf, and pro-Amal army groups would encircle the camps in the south. In return, Israel would pledge to provide the necessary assistance to the Amal Movement to liquidate the Hizballah cells in the south and disarm the camps. Israel would also ensure the withdrawal of the South Lebanese Army from Jazzin and hand over the entire area to the Army's 1st Brigade, provided that guidance and command would be given to Amal's leadership and provided that the Israeli forces would remain in Qal'at al-Shaqif until the port of Sidon is closed and its operations transferred to the port of Tyre.

The sources also referred to the strong Druze displeasure over these contacts. The Druze reject the idea of the withdrawal of the South Lebanese Army from Jazzin on the grounds that this area ensures liaison between Israel and the Druze in Al-Shuf and Hasbayya.

SSNP Denies Derogatory Statement on Amal

NC142031 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] A responsible source in the Higher Council of the Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party [SSNP] has denied making a statement affecting the Amal Movement, which has fought Israel and constitutes the backbone of the resistance in the south. The source said that what was reported by the Voice of Lebanon is an attempt to cover up the visit of Lahd and four Israeli officers to East Beirut and their subsequent meeting with East Beirut leaders, including officials in charge of the Voice of Lebanon.

Al-Rasi, Hamiyah Discuss Beirut Security Plan

NC141448 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi received 'Aql Hamiyah, the official in charge of the Amal Movement's military department, today. They discussed the Internal Security Forces' participation in the security plan that will be implemented in the southern suburb of Beirut.

Hizballah Holds Military Parade in Ba'labakk

JN140705 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] A ceremony and a military parade were held by Hizballah in Ba'labakk yesterday. Iranian Revolution Guards took part in the parade.

The military parade was held to mark the 7th anniversary of the death of the first Islamic resistance fighters against Israel. Hundreds of Iranian Revolution Guards walked in the streets of Ba'labakk, carrying their weapons.

'Abidi, Iranian Revolution Guards commander in Lebanon, addressed a demonstration of 20,000 people. He lauded Hizballah's activities against Israel and called for the intensification of ground and naval attacks against Israeli forces. Hizballah leaders in Lebanon—including Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's spiritual leader, and Shaykh 'Abbas Musawi—as well as 'Isa Tabataba'i, representative of the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon, took part in the demonstration.

Fadlallah delivered a speech in which he asserted that the operations of the Islamic resistance are tantamount to a response to the recent Arab summit in Amman, which, he asserted, consecrated Israel's existence.

Fadlallah also criticized PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and said that he sends his men to Iraq to fight Iran instead of sending them to fight the Zionist enemy.

Iranian Revolution Guards began to arrive in Lebanon during the Israeli invasion of that country in 1982. There are now more than 2,000 Revolution Guards in the Al-Biqa', particularly in Ba'labakk, and in southern Lebanon. They are receiving training in armed resistance. Iran provides its supporters, particularly those in Hizballah, with important financial and social aid.

Fadallah Praises Attacks Against 'Zionists'

LD122159 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Beirut's Friday prayers leader Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said Friday that the dominant powers are powerless before the Islamic Revolution which has called their values in question.

Addressing a group of worshippers at Imam Reza (AS) Mosque in Beirut during the congregational prayers he lauded the Thursday attack of Lebanese Islamic resistance on a Zionist frigate and a Palestinian's surprise air raid on a Zionist garrison two weeks ago.

He said Muslim forces in Lebanon and occupied Palestine thwarted the U.S. plots and that the Zionist forces, despite being equipped with sophisticated weapons, cannot now defend themselves against the attack of only one Muslim.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah condemned reactionary Arab leaders for supporting U.S. interests in the region and invited them to join combatants who seek to free Islamic lands and Muslim people from the yoke of "treacherous" Arab rulers who are sacrificing Arabs for "the U.S. and Israel."

He also called on all Palestinians to unite against the Zionist regime and avoid all in-fighting and bickering which, he said, spoils their fighting with the Zionist regime.

Hizballah TV Station Operates in Al-Biqa'

NC141218 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 7 Dec 87 p 6

[Text] After a stoppage of several days, the Hizballah television station in the village of Suhmur in western Al-Biqa' has resumed its transmission, which covers the village and certain neighboring villages.

The transmission, which began 3 months ago, used to cover a vast area extending from Suhmur to Marj 'Uyun. It stopped after the Lahd militia threatened to shell the area if the transmissions were not confined to Suhmur.

The programs, which start at 1800 and end at 2400, include films of the Iran-Iraq war and the role of the Iranian soldier, in addition to clips of Israeli shelling of villages adjacent to the security zone and Islamic resistance operations.

The Suhmur television station is not the only one in Al-Biqa'. It was preceded by the Al-Hanan television station in Ta'nayil and the Al-Wi'am television station in Bidnayil. These two stations continuously broadcast Arabic films and plays interspersed by commercials.

Preparations are under way to build a television station in Jubb Jannin.

Lebanese Forces Outline Presidential Guidelines
NC132106 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Tawfiq Hindi, political adviser to the Lebanese Forces commander, has given the following three goals as guidelines for the next presidential program, no matter who the president is:

1. To secure the withdrawal of all foreign armies and forces from Lebanon;

2. To achieve a political reform proceeding from the recognition of the plurality of the status quo; and

3. To ensure a regional neutrality that is internationally guaranteed.

The Lebanese Forces have also set forth the qualifications for the next president, foremost of which are commitment, enlightenment, integrity, strength, and the enjoyment of international, regional, and local respect.

Force 17 Said To Support Liberation Battalion
NC131114 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] AFP has reported that 44 Syrian soldiers have been killed since the deployment of Syrian forces in West Beirut in February 1987. It added that Force 17, led by Abu al-Tayyib, is behind the Liberation Battalion and is being helped by some Hizballah units in its support for the Liberation Battalions' actions against the Syrian forces. [passage omitted]

Resistance Detonates Bomb Near Lahd Patrol
NC121218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Islamic resistance fighters last night detonated an explosive charge as an agent Lahd militia patrol was traveling along the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road, in the western sector of southern Lebanon. The explosion destroyed a half-track vehicle and killed or wounded all its passengers.

The militia radio has admitted the operation, saying that one militiaman was killed and another was wounded.

Fishermen in Sidon reported this morning that the Israeli Navy has prevented them from going too far out to sea and ordered them to return to shore, threatening to open fire at them if they sail out again.

New Group Claims Killing of Syrians in North
NC121235 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The town of (Al-Tarram) in Al-Kurah has been under siege since this morning following the death of a Syrian soldier in the Syrian occupation army center in the town.

Meanwhile, Radio Free Lebanon was contacted a short while ago by a person claiming to speak on behalf of a new organization called the National Front. He affirmed that his organization had raided the (Al-Tarram)-Al-Kurah center of the Syrian Army, killing 1st Lieutenant 'Imad and a guard. He added that a Syrian Army ambulance was seen removing the two bodies. The caller did not reveal any information about the organization on behalf of which he claimed to be speaking.

Nasirites, Army Members Clash in Sidon
NC141815 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] A state of calm now reigns in Sidon in the wake of a security upset that began at 1610 today. The disturbance involved a 30-minute clash between elements from the Nasirite Popular Organization and some Army personnel in the area of [words indistinct].

According to security reports, one Army officer was killed in the fighting. The clash has been contained, thanks to the intensive efforts made by key figures in Sidon.

TASS Cites Al-Shar' on U.S.-USSR Summit

JN150845 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday said Syria welcomes the results of the talks between CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, which led to the signing of a historic agreement on the elimination of short- and medium-range missiles.

In a statement to a TASS correspondent in Damascus, the foreign minister added: We believe that this treaty constitutes a tangible contribution to [international] detente. This treaty was an inevitable result of the USSR's initiatives.

Al-Shar' said: For the first time, the world witnesses the elimination, not only the reduction, of a complete category of nuclear arms. He stressed that this gives us hope that the world will eventually be free of the means of mass anhnihilation. The foreign minister stressed the need to establish nuclear-free zones in the world. He said that the Syrian Government also calls for the establishment of such zones in the Middle East.

Austrian Defense Minister Talks With Talas

JN142118 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this morning received in his office Dr Robert Lichal, Austria's minister of national defense, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; General 'Ali Aslan and Major General Hasan Turkmani, deputies chief of staff; and the Austian ambassador in Damascus. Discussion focused on regional developments and ways to promote friendship and military cooperation between Syria and Austria. Souvenirs were exchanged. [passage omitted]

The Austrian minister and his delegation later visited a Syrian air base. They were received at the entrance to the base by the deputy commander of the Air Force and Air Defenses and the commander and officers of the base. [passage omitted]

Received by Prime Minister

JN142126 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Dr Robert Lichal, Austria's minister of national defense, at 1930 today. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, attended the meeting. The Austrian ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting. Talks revolved around a number of subjects and issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Paper Views U.S.-Israeli Cooperation Memo

JN151005 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0540 GMT 15 Dec 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Solidarity With Arab Rights Against the Zionist Falsehood," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The memorandum of cooperation for strategic understanding which the Zionist war minister signed in Washington yesterday gave the enemy entity further support and privileges in all fields, particularly in military fields. These privileges are unprecedented in history. These privileges should not be granted to an artificially-created entity by a big power unless this power adopts a policy that is against right and supports falsehood. In fact, this is what is actually taking place. The U.S. Administration proved that it has always been obedient to Israel. It gives Israel what it likes and grants it the aid it desires—aid which provides it with the means of survival, expansion, and aggression.

The paper adds: Perhaps the strange thing is that the memorandum of understanding between the two strategic allies coincides with the growing international unanimity on the need to achieve a just peace in the Middle East. This makes us wonder: What kind of peace can be achieved in light of the unlimited U.S. support for Israel? Is it the peace of the powerful against the weak to force the Arabs to capitulate?

Concluding, the paper says: Syria, which was the first to define the concept of a just peace and to explain its constant pillars, was also the first to warn, through struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, that peace cannot be achieved except by a strategic parity that allows no conditions affecting our people's inalienable and legitimate rights. This is why Al-Asad's Syria has been working and is still working for a parity that requires further effective Arab solidarity—solidarity with Arab rights against Zionist falsehood.

Afghanistan

Armed Groups Surrender; 665 Prisoners Released

LD150614 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 14, BAKHTAR—The Afghan land witnessed major successes during the week just elapsed, in the implementation of reconciliation.

Facts and figures reveal that during the past week some of opposition armed groups laid down their arms on the appreciation of the rightfulness of the national reconciliation policy, and joined the people's power in order to ensure peace and security.

The groups, numbering six-hundred and thirty-three people, joined the national reconciliation policy in the district of Adraskan in Herat Province, and in places in Faryab Province, expresssing all-round preparedness toward implementation of peace in their respective localities.

Similarly, in continuation of the return of emigrant Afghans from abroad, eighty-five families, consisting of three hundred and ninety-seven individuals, who resided in Iran and Pakistan, returned to their country, to resume their peaceful life in their abodes in the provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, Baghlan, and Helmand.

Meanwhile, based on the decree released by the president of the Republic, six hundred and sixty-five prisoners were released from prisons in the provinces of Kabul, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Badghis, Takhar, Samangan, Balkh and Farah during the same week.

But the enemies of the Afghan people and the extremist elements, due to hostility with the people and with ensurance of peace, want to obstruct the peaceful life inside the country and fan the fighting in the country.

During the past week, they partly devastated some of residential houses in Meymaneh, centre of Faryab Province, by firing ground to ground rockets on them. Too, by planting 210 kilograms of explosives underneath the Sarowbi bridge in Sarowbi District in order to demolish it, they resorted to another criminal act which was thwarted by the country's security forces in time.

Thus, a number of extremist elements, who wanted to disturb the peaceful life in Herat, Nangarhar and [name indistinct] Provinces, were crushed by security forces, with their arms and ammunitions confiscated.

Bangladesh

Seven Jamiat-i Islami Leaders Released 15 Dec

BK150736 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The government has ordered the release of seven Jamiat-i Islami leaders of Dhaka, Chittagong, and Narayanganj. They are Abu Muzaffar Ahmed, Janab Mustur Ali, Sheikh Ansar Ali, Advocate Abdul Qadir, Janab Nazrul Islam, Abdul Rashid Haldar, and Mohammad Ubaidul Alam.

Besides, the government has decided to release 436 detenus [detainees] and undertrial prisoners on the occasion of Victory Day.

Ruling, Opposition Parties on Present Crisis

BK141606 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain has expressed the hope that the opposition will revise its negative position with regard to polls and come forward to participate in it. Shah Moazzam, who is also the secretary general of the Jatiya Party, was talking to EASTERN NEWS AGENCY in Dhaka today. He called upon the opposition to take up the electoral contest and test their popularity.

The United Front has said an impartial election can help overcome the present crisis in the country. At the party presidium meeting in Dhaka today, Chairman Abu Nasir Khan Bhasani said election is possible only under a caretaker government.

The National Republican Party at a meeting of its executive committee said all problems can be solved through mutual understanding and cooperation. To overcome the present political unrest, election of Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] has no alternative.

Jatiya Shramik Party in a statement has urged all concerned to solve the prevailing problems through dialogue and constitutional means.

Bangladesh Hindu Oikya Front in a statement has called for immediate release of all political detenus and holding of mid-term elections by creating favorable situation for it.

Ershad Informs Army of Current Situation

BK121612 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad, who is also the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, informed the regular quarterly administrative meeting of the Army about the latest situation in the country. The meeting was held at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka today.

The chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman, PSO's [principal staff officers], and directors of the Army attended. The quarterly administrative meeting of the Army is held regularly to discuss and resolve administrative matters with the supreme commander in the chair. The president also saw some models of the proposed building of the Army museum.

Election Commission Updating Voter List
BK141618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text]) The Election Commission has directed all the district election officers and registration officers for taking necessary steps relating to the amendment and corrections of existing voter list.

An Election Commission press release issued in Dhaka today said work has already started throughout the country in this regard. It said those who have become eligible to be enrolled as voters on attaining the age of 18 years may now do so by applying to the concerned district election officer and the registration officer and also the assistant registration officer. All the district election officers are acting as registration officers for matters relating to the preparation of electoral rolls and officers from (?90) upazilas [subdistrict] and thanas [police stations] have been appointed assistant registration officers.

Curfew To Be Reimposed in Dhaka, Other Cities
BK141552 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] The curfew will be reimposed from 2300 [1700t GMT] tonight and will continue till 0500 tomorrow morning in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Narayanganj. The curfew will be reimposed from 0000 tomorrow night and will continue till 0400 on Wednesday morning. The industrial areas of Demra, Adamji, Fotullah, and (Fulda Hat) will remain outside the purview of curfew.

ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA Banned
BK131424 Hong Kong AFP in English 1419 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 13 (AFP)—The authorities here have banned the import of the current islue of the "ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA", the official BSS news agency said Sunday.

It said the import of the December 13-19 issue of the weekly published in Bombay was prohibited, but gave no reason for the ban.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad imposed a state of emergency in Bangladesh November 17 and dissolved Parliament December 6 after several weeks of opposition-led agitation calling for his resignation and that of his government.

Navy Captures 3 Foreign Fishing Boats
BK131604 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Bangladesh Navy ship "Shahid Farid" during her routine patrol yesterday apprehended three foreign fishing boats from the berth, 26 miles off Hiran Point. A [word indistinct] press release said the foreign boats were engaged in fishing within Bangladesh waters without any lawful authority. All the 36 crews of the captured boats were handed over to Mangla police station. All the fish recovered from the vessels were deposited with the local customs authorities.

India

Red Alert in Haryana Following Punjab Deaths
BK141604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has strongly condemned the killing of two senior police officers at Patiala this morning. He said there would be no let up in the fight against terrorism in the state.

The district police chief Patiala, Mr A.S. Brar, and S.P. [Superintendent of Police] headquarters, Mr K.R.S. Gill, were shot dead by terrorists in Patiala this morning. Senior police officers have rushed to the spot. A massive manhunt is on to apprehend the culprits. A red alert has been sounded in Haryana in the wake of the killing.

2 'Terrorists' Killed
BK150338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, two suspected terrorists were killed near village Raipur in Ludhiana District late last night. According to an official spokesman, a joint police and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] naka [patrol] party noted three persons moving suspiciously near a canal bridge. They tried to run away when challenged. Two of them were killed when the naka party opened fire. The third managed to escape.

The Punjab government has sounded a red alert in the state following the killing of two senior police officers in Patiala. Patroling along the border has been intensified.

Meanwhile, a call for a bundh [strike] has been given in Patiala city today in protest against the killings of the police officials.

Strike Called in Patiala
BK150755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] In Panjab, Patiala city is observing a total bundh today. The bundh call was given by Gindu Suraksha Samiti [Protection Council] to protest against the killings of two police officials in Patiala yesterday. All the commercial establishments and bazaars are closed. Police and paramilitary forces have been deputed at strategic points to avoid any untoward incident.

Sri Lankan 'Terrorist' Captured in Madras

BK141154 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] A Sri Lankan terrorist was arrested in Madras after he attempted to open fire at a policeman manning at checkpoint, according to Indian press reports monitored by LANKA PUWATH. The report published in THE HINDU and THE NEWS TODAY states that the Chengalputtu East police arrested the Sri Lankan terrorist last week and seized a submachinegun and a Suzuki motorcycle by checking vehicles near Shanti Colony in Annanagar. The 22-year-old arrested man, Valuwan, alias Raja, alias Mohan, alias Ranjit, riding on the pillion of the motorcycle brandished the submachinegun, but the police party overpowered him. In the melee, the motor rider escaped.

K. Subayya, superintendent of police Chengulputtu East, said that so far 4 AK-47 rifles, 2 submachineguns, 1 rifle with bayonet, and about 1,000 live cartridges were seized since January this year from Tamil terrorists involved in a wave of crime. Vehicles seized included two Maruti cars, three Ambassador cars, and six motorcycles.

Subayya said the police parties risked their lives while arresting the terrorist since the sophisticated weapons carried by the terrorist were loaded. He said that 26 armed Sri Lankan terrorists implicated in 21 criminal cases were arrested since the beginning of this year.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Meets Gandhi 14 Dec

BK150810 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English
1600 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] The Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in Delhi today. Mr Upadhyaya conveyed to the prime minister a message of greetings from King Birendra.

Earlier, Mr Upadhyaya met the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh. They talked for a follow up of their discussions during the SAARC summit in Kathmandu on bilateral matters.

Prime Minister Gandhi, Delegation Visit Burma

For reportage on Prime Minister Gandhi's arrival in Burma and coverage of the visit, see the Burma section of the Southeast Asia division of 15 December East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Vanuatu President Arrives in New Delhi

BK131623 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] The president of Vanuatu, Mr George Ati Sokomanu, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon to a warm welcome. He was received at the airport by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, and the civil aviation minister, Mr Jagdish Tytler.

During his 4-day stay in the country, Mr Sokomanu will have discussions with the Indian leaders. He will also visit the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology processing unit, Wellington Islands, and Copra Development Corporation in Kerala.

Disapproval of Fiji Coup Noted

BK150348 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has said that the establishment of nuclear-free zones will not necessarily eliminate the threat of nuclear conflagration. He was speaking at a banquet given in honor of the visiting president of Vanuatu, Mr George Sokomanu. Mr Venkataraman said India believes that the entire world should become a nuclear-free zone if mankind is to escape extinction.

Referring to developments in Fiji, Mr Venkataraman said India shares the strong disapproval of Vanuatu about seizure of power by the Army in Fiji.

Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha Debate Fairfax Issue

BK150430 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, asserted in the Lok Sabha that hiring of a foreign agency with dubious character like Fairfax without proper inquiry to investigate economic offenses abroad was totally wrong. Replying to a special discussion on the subject in the Lok Sabha last night after a 6-hour debate, he said the Thakkar-Natarajan Commission was correct in its observations that private detective agencies should never be hired in future for such purposes.

He said the basic question is not about the role played by the then director, enforcement, Mr Burelal, or others indicted by the commission but how Mr Michael Hershman of the Fairfax was engaged. He regretted that the opposition tried to politicize the issue instead of suggesting what methodology should be adopted to catch economic offenders outside India. The minister assured the House that the government will take necessary steps to implement the recommendations of the commission, which he said has done a clean job. He expressed the government's determination to continue the drive against economic offenders without fear or favor.

Intervening, the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, added that Mr V.P. Singh's conduct in the Fairfax affair has done a great damage to the polity and cabinet system of government. The minister referred to Mr Singh's complaint that he was not given notice by the commission under section 8-B of the Commission of Enquiry Act to give evidence and to cross examine some people concerned. He wondered that when Mr Singh had pleaded ignorance on many of the commission's queries how did he expect the commission to call him before it. During the discussion initiated by Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI-I, opposition members expressed disappointment at the report of the commission and said it has not brought to light anything, but has made observations against honest and sincere officials. They also questioned the procedure adopted by the commission in the enquiry.

In a strong rebuttal of the opposition allegations, the ruling party members criticized the opposition for pleading the case of persons who were trying to put the country's security to a grave risk.

In the Rajya Sabha, replying to a marathon debate on the Thakkar-Natarajan Commission report on the Fairfax issue, the minister of state for finance, Mr B.K. Gadhvi, charged that the exercise to appoint the Fairfax agency was undertaken for achievement of some ulterior motives. As the decision was taken clandestinely, the question of collective responsibility does not arise as has been made out by the former finance minister and opposition, Mr Gadhvi retorted. The minister said the opposition has chosen to denigrate the judiciary when it does not suit their purpose.

Earlier, participating in the 9-hour long debate the opposition members criticized the commission's report, which they said does not throw light on the main issue of siphoning of foreign exchange from the country. The discussion which was initiated by Mr (Chaturanan Mishra), CPI-I, evoked strong defense from the ruling party members.

Iran

Spokesman Cited on Rumored Khomeyni Illness

AU150811 Vienna KURIER in German
15 Dec 87 p 3

[Text] Iran's revolution leader Khomeyni is seriously ill and is in hospital. This rumor caused disquiet in the news media on Monday [14 December]. The rumor started in Vienna. Iran's Oil Minister Aqazadeh left the OPEC meeting without his delegation to return to Tehran. The reason given officially for this move was that he had returned for consultations with his government.

Asked about the wave of rumors, Khomeyni's spokesman in Tehran said that "the imam's health is—thank God—better than ever before." The Iranian revolution leader is 87. During the past few years there have been repeated rumors about his poor health. His death would cause a power struggle within the Iranian leadership, the result of which is considered totally unpredictable by the West.

Embassy in Vienna on 'Rumor'

AU151259 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1239 GMT
15 Dec 87

[Text] London/Vienna—According to the British newspaper THE TIMES, Iran's revolution leader Khomeyni is in a coma. A team of doctors has been flown to Tehran to treat Khomeyni. The team reportedly consists of one British and two Austrian doctors.

So far it has not been possible to confirm this report among Vienna's medical circles. University Professor Freilinger of Vienna's Second Surgical University Hospital told APA: "I inquired at the Iranian Embassy. A reliable source credibly assured me that the report is only a rumor."

Situation Around Khomeyni's Home 'Normal'

AU151140 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT
15 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Paris, Dec 15 (AFP)—The situation was normal Tuesday outside the northern Tehran home of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni despite rumors that he is seriously ill.

Tehran residents who were contacted by phone from Paris said that several visitors were seen Wednesday coming out of what seemed to be an audience with Mr. Khomeyni at his Jamaran home in the northern suburb of the Iranian capital.

The residents added that security was not stepped up around Mr. Khomeyni's house. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni Receives Martyrs' Families, Others

LD151137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the martyrdom of the esteemed martyr in the niche [who was killed while leaving Friday prayers], Ayatollah Dastgheyb, the anniversary of the martyrdom of illustrious martyr Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Mofatteh, and clergy students unity day, the families of martyrs, those missing in action, POW's, and the crippled from the town of Jahrom in Fars Province, from Kashan, and from parts of Tehran, with the Majlis deputy from Jahrom, met Imam Khomeyni in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran this morning

During this meeting, which was also attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hashem Dastgheyb, the son of the martyred Ayatollah Dastgheyb, Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative, supervisor of the Martyrs Foundation, and deputy speaker of the Majlis, delivered a speech on the divine movement of the wronged Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He stated:

The arch Satan—the United States—the Zionists, and the reactionary Arab rulers imagined that by convening a conference in Amman under the chairmanship of the shah of Jordan and by dictating a resolution to that conference supporting the regime occupying Jerusalem, the struggles of the Muslim people and the Islamic ummah against the Zionist regime would end. They did not know that, on the contrary, the conference further familiarized Muslim nations and their wronged brothers and sisters in the occupied territories with their divine responsibility. The recent divine movement of the Muslim beloved ones, who have been kept captive in occupied Palestine, is a manifestation of this fact.

In this meeting, Mr. Karrubi, on behalf of the imam, welcomed the families of the martyrs, the missing in action, the POW's, and the crippled, and expressed his appreciation for their self-sacrifice and devotion.

At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the sentiments of those present.

Majlis Speaker Discusses Palestinian Issue

LD150942 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday culmination in struggle of Palestinians inside the occupied territories is a reaction to the Zionist regime and compromising policy of the Arab reactionaries.

Speaking in the open session of the Majlis Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the recent actions of the Palestinians as significant. The recent moves of the Palestinians in occupied lands is signified by Islamic slogans which has panicked the world oppressors and supporters of the Zionist regime.

These developments, he continued, are taking place at a time when the reactionary Arab leaders have stopped backing the Palestinians and have instead joined the Camp David trend.

The Majlis speaker stressed that the recent actions of the Palestinians are direct responses to crimes and treacheries of the compromising Arab leaders.

Criticising inaction and compromising policies of certain Palestinian organisations, he said that the recent developments in occupied territories are in response to these organisations which attended the Amman Arab summit and also to their reactionary Arab collaborators.

Further in his address the Majlis speaker criticised Western media coverage of the developments in occupied territories and said that it was similar to their stance towards the struggle of the Iranian people. The whole world, he stressed, should pay attention to the savageries and atrocities of the Zionist regime, and the Western media should stop their biased coverage, he said.

On recently concluded OPEC session in Vienna, he said that the refusal of certain OPEC members to agree with an increase in oil prices to compensate for fall in dollar value was in fact to please the U.S.

Commentary on West Bank, Gaza Demonstrations

LD141212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The conditions on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip, resulting from the continuing demonstrations and strikes, are gradually advancing toward a large-scale Islamic uprising, so much so that the newspapers of the Zionist enemy have been forced to admit that the occupied territories are on the verge of a popular revolution.

According to reports published by Palestinian sources, in the past few weeks about 40 inhabitants of the occupied territories, which have been occupied by Israel for almost 20 years, have been martyred. In many cities, like Al-Khalil, the place where the tomb of his holiness Abraham, the friend of God, is situated, and Nablus, Jerusalem, and Ramallah, many huge demonstrations have taken place. While a universal strike is being observed in most of the cities, including East Jerusalem, many camps such as Balatah, 'Askar, and Jabalyah have been turned into major centers of crisis and disorder.

According to the reports, men and women, both young and old, attack the Zionists shoulder-to-shoulder with stones and sticks, and the enemy forces have been unable to clear the stones and debris thrown onto the streets. Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-Alami, the mufti of Jerusalem has said: Israel's goal in this suppression is to empty Palestine of its original inhabitants.

In order to confront these angry people, the enemy security and military forces, while making use of the latest antiriot equipment, also resort to direct shooting. This has increased the number of martyrs, and also has increased the anger and hatred of the Muslim people. It has been reported that most Palestinian workers have not gone to work in order to take part in the demonstrations. [passage omitted]

Side by side with these epic demonstrations, the admissions of the enemy newspapers, and the support of a number of revolutionary Palestinian organizations, the right-wing Palestinian faction, by holding meetings in Baghdad or Kuwait, is trying to receive greater support from the reactionary wing of Arab Governments by expressing its support for Kuwait and by making certain statements regarding the crisis in the Persian Gulf. At a time when the inhabitants of the occupied territories are bleeding like sacrificial lambs at the threshold of the Camp David accords, a delegation from the right wing of the Palestinian leadership is in Cairo trying to portray the resumption of relations with the Egyptian regime by 14 Arab governments as something quite natural. Finally, while the enemy soldiers are frightened of the revolutionary zeal and epic deeds of the Palestinian people and have control over them, the Jordanian Shah Husayn prides himself that he has received a proposal to have a meeting with the leaders of the Zionist regime on the fringes of the summit meeting of the leaders of the two superpowers and boasts that he has rejected that proposal.

The reactionary step taken by the right-wing Arab leaders in recognizing the Egyptian regime or in convening an Arab summit conference in Jordan side-by-side with the wave of an Islamic and revolutionary resurgence in the region— especially among the inhabitants of the occupied territories—are two developments that are daily increasing the gap between the people of the region and the reactionary regimes. At the same time, this parting of ways arouses great hopes for the implementation of the popular and Islamic Revolution of the inhabitants of the occupied Palestine. Although the victory of that revolution may not be realized in the near future, nevertheless the continuation of the anti-Zionist campaigns will put greater pressure on the reactionary regimes.

Majlis Deputy Denounces UN Position on War

LD141519 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] During yesterday's open session of the Islamic Majlis, Mr Mir Morteza Musavi-Ardabili, the deputy from Andimeshk and Shush, as the first pre-agenda speaker, referred to the crimes of the United States and its allies against the aggrieved nation of Iran and their new trick; that is, Security Council Resolution 598. He said:

[Begin recording] The latest weapon of the arch Satan, the United States, is the baseless and vague Resolution 598, which meets Saddam's demands. It wants us to give up all our gains that were achieved by the blood of our precious martyrs and that pushed Saddam into an impasse. It suggests that ulimately a committee will be set up, the composition of which is not known and no one knows how long it will take, to investigate the roots of the war in order to settle the dispute by a simple statement. Had the Security Council issued a resolution to condemn Iraq for its aggression or its deployment of chemical weapons, and had the Security Council condemned the past bombings and the countless crimes of the Iraqi criminal regime against the nations of Iraq and Iran, then one could expect that its committee would also condemn Iraq in the future. However, most of the permament members of the Security Council, primarily the United States, are at war with us, and a resolution passed by the enemies of Islam is not acceptable to us under any circumstances. Only if it had given top priority to the condemnation of the aggressor and had condemned the criminal could we have said that the Security Council was unbiased.

How can we trust the United Nations, whose so-called Human Rights Commission keeps issuing new resolutions against Iran daily, without ever inspecting our prisons and only on the basis of the evidence provided by a group of hypocrites, spies, and murderers, but which has never issued any resolution against Saddam, whose crimes even exceed those of Hitler and Genghis Khan? Therefore, we can conclude that the Security Council is happy with all the crimes committed by the Ba'th Party. We can also conclude that the Security Council, with Saddam's assistance, is using chemical bombs against us. It is the Security Council that has destroyed tens of thousands of residential homes of innocent people, including women and children. Ultimately, it is the Security Council that has violated Iran's territory.

The Muslim nation of Iran has reached this conclusion: Only force can stand against force. For this reason, the Muslim nation has responded to the 10-point statement of the Supreme War Support Council and has participated in the glorious and historic maneuvers all over Iran. God willing, these forces will go to the fronts according to a timetable, and soon, with Almighty succor, they will rub Saddam's mouth into the dirt on the fronts, and will do the same to the mouths of his supporters in the Persian Gulf. [end recording]

Khamene'i on Responsibility for Muslims

LD141828 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—The Islamic Republic will continue its war policy of dealing relentless blows on Iraqi troops until the overthrow of the Baghdad regime, vowed President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday.

The president, addressing a group of visiting personnel of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) from Azna, Lorestan Province, noted that the defeat of the Iraqi regime will actually be the defeat of the U.S.

The Islamic Republic feels powerful in the politico-military arena of the world because its logic and words have a profound effect on world governments, said the president, who also heads the Supreme Defence Council (SDC).

Khamene'i said agents of global arrogance have now joined hands in a bid to force the Iranian people to retreat, adding Islamic Republic is now fighting on both the political and military fronts.

Today, noted the president, the Iranian nation is single-handedly shouldering all responsibilites and duties of revolutionary Islamic communities around the globe and is doing its best to perform this great task successfully.

Khamene'i said history will record the current political phase of Iranian nation in glowing terms and within the next two or three decades foreigners and even Iranians will be amazed at such heroic resistance and spirit of devotion.

Interior Minister Lauds Islamic Revolution

LD141827 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—The U.S., the Soviet Union and their allies are helpless against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, despite their sophisticated equipment, said the interior minister here Monday adding Islamic Iran has endangered their very existence in the region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami said foreign governments usually rely on their armies and military equipment and take the adversary's military machine into account in case of a confrontation. But he added, the enemies of the Islamic Republic have to count on Iran's 50-million population. This is beyond their imaginations, he added.

Mohtashami made the remarks in his address to a meeting of Cooperative Society officials from throughout Tehran Province.

Also speaking at the meeting was head of the Basij (mobilization) force of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani who said all arrogant powers have joined hands to deal a blow on the Islamic Republic through a constant poisonous propaganda tirade.

Although the leaders of both the superpowers seem to have agreed on many issues, they have yet to coordinate views on putting pressure on the Islamic Revolution, Rahmani said.

Rahmani, pointing to popular assistance to the battlefields, said the headquarters for recruiting volunteers has so far given more than rials 32.5 billion (dlrs 465 million) in aid towards the war fronts.

PRC Reportedly To Sell Silkworm Missiles

OW121227 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 12 KYODO—China plans to sell 300 additional Silkworm missiles to Iran, the Beirut magazine AL-SHIRA' said Saturday.

The magazine, which did not reveal its sources, said the Beijing government "justified" the sale because of its need for foreign exchange which it wants to use for modernizing state institutions, especially the Army.

The Iranians have been using the missiles for attacks against Kuwait. China has repeatedly denied it has directly provided Iran with Silkworms.

Construction Jihad Minister Returns From PRC

NC150842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Zangeneh, who led a delegation to the PRC, returned to Tehran this morning following a 7-day stay in that country. During his visit he held talks with Chinese officials.

After his arrival in Tehran, he informed our correspondent about the objectives of the visit and its outcome: During this visit, we pursued several basic objectives in the various fields of construction jihad. Talks were held on fisheries, cooperation in water engineering, rural development, and rural industries. We also held talks on other issues. He added: In the field of fisheries, agreements were reached on the purchase of 36 trawlers. Agreement was also reached by both sides on the catch of 44,000 tonnes of fish, as well as on research for breeding shrimps, exchanging experts, and purchasing fish-breeding equipment for the country's domestic waters.

Commenting on the [word indistinct] of rural industries, Mr Zangeneh added: During our meetings, we held talks on this, specifically on the purchase of machinery needed by rural industries. He said: During this visit we established contacts with those Chinese research centers dealing with the field of water engineering. We were able to inspect one of that country's large centers. Our experts were invited to continue their research in China.

The minister of construction jihad added: Agreement also was reached on rural development, a natural area for cooperation between the two countries, and particularly in the field of hydroelectricity up to 30 megawatts, the training of experts to plan the necessary systems, the establishment of a [words indistinct] laboratory for the technical college and the transfer of technology, and the construction of [words indistinct] (?500-kilowatt) turbines that is being followed up by the [name indistinct] company.

Mr Zangeneh concluded: We also held meetings with various ministers, including the deputy prime minister and member of the Political Bureau of the CPC. Positive talks were held on matters of mutual interest, particularly on the Persian Gulf, the imposed war, UN Security Council Resolution 598, and U.S. aggression in the region.

Mines, Metals Minister Meets Soviet Envoy

LD141619 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—The Soviet Ambassador to Iran Vladimir V. Gudev met Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi here today.

Issues of mutual interest including Soviet collaboration in the Esfahan steel plant were the main topics discussed at the meeting. Views were also exchanged regarding cooperation between the two countries, within the framework of the U.N. affiliated organizations.

Ayatollahi said there are wider scopes for promotion of Tehran-Moscow ties. The two countries share common boundaries, common interests and even their political outlooks are very close to each other on the international level, he added.

Ayatollahi expressed hope that the USSR will collaborate in other projects, especially the steel industry and training of specialized personnel for geological exploratory work. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to collaborate with the USSR in the sale of concentrated lead and zinc ores and other minerals, Ayatollahi added.

Law Against Ration Coupon Fraud Enacted

LD131534 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The first item on today's bulletin is entitled "The Enactments of Today's Open Session of the Majlis," to which I now invite you to listen.

According to the Majlis, all ration coupons for basic goods and fuel and other coupons for the essential needs of the people are considered as negotiable notes [owraq-e bahadar]. Any attempt to forge, possess illegally, steal, buy, sell, or misuse coupons issued to ministries, companies, municipalities, governmental or nongovernmental companies by unauthorized persons is considered a crime. According to the law banning the sale or purchase of coupons for essential goods passed by the Majlis in its second reading today, anyone who attempts to forge or illegally print coupons will be sentenced to 1 to 5 years imprisonment with 10 to 74 lashes, in addition to the confiscation of any money made in this way. Also, anyone who buys and sells coupons will be sentenced from 1 to 5 years of imprisonment, in addition to paying back all the proceeds from the sale of coupons. If the offender belongs to a guild, in addition to the mentioned sentences he will be prohibited from receiving government allocations for 1 to 10 years. If recipients of coupons present false documents to banks in order to receive their allocations, they will be sentenced to up to 74 lashes. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Sale of Stingers to Bahrain

NC141010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0345 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "The U.S. Senate Approves the Sale of Stinger Missiles to Bahrain"]

[Text] Despite its former opposition, the U.S. Senate recently approved the sale of Stinger missiles to the Bahraini Government on certain conditions. These conditions stipulate: First, Reagan must inform Congress in writing on the need to sell these missiles in order to confront imminent threats; second, the Stingers must be stored in separate depots to prevent them from falling into the hands of other forces; and third, the U.S. Administration must propose another plan for ensuring Bahrain's air security within 18 months, at which time the Bahraini Government must return the unused missiles to the United States.

It should be noted that during the past few years, the U.S. leadership has tried, by selling its modern arms and war materiel to its minions, to further ensure the subserviency of these governments in order to safeguard Washington's oppressive interests and to crush risen nations. Therefore, after the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution and the Iranian Army's use of modern weapons to confront Washington's oppressive policies, deep concern arose among the Zionist regime's mentors within the U.S. leadership. This concern has been manifested repeatedly in the form of these factions' strong opposition to the sale of advanced weapons and modern light arms like Stinger missiles. Of course, this concern stems from two specific and experienced aspects of the Islamic Revolution. First, experience has shown these factions that the downfall of apparently strong and stable regimes is not impossible. Second, the experience of the Islamic Revolution of Iran has revealed that nations can overthrow Washington's most powerful friends in a short period merely by relying on unity and faith and can thwart all ensuing plots by relying on their unending divine strength.

This change in the situation has practically made all the potentials and possibilities, placed at the United States' disposal on the basis of the sham stability of such regimes, have a completely opposite result to what Washington leaders intended. Second, the movements inspired by the school of thought of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the awe-inspiring selflessness and courage of these forces have repeatedly shown that America's minions are much more vulnerable and weaker than previously thought. Therefore, it is very obvious that these concerns—as repeatedly confessed by the said U.S. factions—do not, in any way, manifest their doubt in the reactionary nature or the degree of subserviency of these regimes. Rather, this concern merely stems from the impotence and weakness of these regimes and, actually, from the growing strength of Islamic movements. Of course, in the opinion of some U.S. factions, to show the dependent regimes that this concern exists will have extremely grave and destructive consequences, at least in the short term. This is because once these regimes lose their faith in their main support, the degree of Washington's influence in these countries will be gradually weakened as a result.

Therefore, the emergence of such conflicts within the U.S. Congress and the Reagan administration's insistence on giving modern arms and war materiel to these governments should be studied and assessed within this framework, in addition to its other aspects. Moreover, the existence of such conflicts is actually a good pretext for Washington to sell modern arms and war materiel to dependent regimes and to send its military experts and advisers to these countries. In this way Washington can demand more concessions from them. A good example of this was seen in the agreement on the sale and control of U.S. AWACS planes.

At any rate, regimes such as Bahrain's, are too small to remain optimistic about their future security under U.S. support while they continue their policy of supporting U.S. forces and of helping the enemies of Islam. Therefore, the governments of the Persian Gulf coast should, while taking into consideration the growing trend of Islamic movements and the alertness of the Muslim nations, stop hanging on the rotten rope of Washington's support and not destroy their future and fate for the sake of ensuring the oppressive interests of the arch Satan, particularly when Kuwait's recent experiences have shown once again that the U.S. Administration is too weak to resist the determination of the Muslim nations.

Commentary Condemns Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

LD131408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. imperialism, as the main antagonist of the Islamic Revolution, has used all its facilities, tricks, and plots against this revolution for the past 9 years but without any results. This is because the Islamic Revolution of Iran is a divine light in the world today and no power is capable of extinguishing it, although the enemies of God and Islam are trying to put out the light, a light that gives hope to the oppressed of the world.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the strategy of world imperialism, led by the United States, gave top priority to destroying this revolution and its policy in the Middle East. Although this strategy followed one objective, it resorted to different methods and used various means—all of which proved unsuccessful. These methods included relying on liberals as an internal alternative, resorting to terrorist methods by subservient internal minigroups, economic war, and finally the imposed war.

The last page in this strategy was the war imposed by Iraq on the Islamic Republic of Iran which aimed at dividing Iran and toppling the central government. This strategy had the backing of coordinated Arab reactionaries from the beginning and it still does. The course of the 8-year long imposed war, on the one hand, displays the pride and prowess of the Islamic Revolution and, on the other, exposes the uselessness of imperialist weapons and the tangible weakness of the United Statts and its allies. It also demonstrates the obvious decadence of the reactionary aristocracy ruling over the subservient countries of the region.

Arab reactionaries, whose nature contradicts pure Islamic thought, feel threatened and insecure because of Islamic Iran's victory in the war. The reactionary and declining aristocracy ruling over Arab countries—ever since the appearance of Sharif Husayn, the lacky of Britain responsible for implementing colonialist plans in Arab countries—has begun playing its destructive part against Islam in the shape of a subservient and misguided political ideology. This political ideology, the continuation of which is manifest in the reactionary governments of the region, is at present the main supporter of the United States' aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are the leaders of the aristocratic, Western, and Arab governments and the major backers of Saddam's regime, and are the United States' allies in the Persian Gulf. They have invited and are hosting the aggressive NATO forces in the Persian Gulf. Al Sabah, who has sacrificed his honor in his dependence on the U.S. fleet, in his latest stroke of genius announced that he has put one or two sea platforms at the disposal of the United States. Such abject and greedy prostitution was described by a BBC analyst as an indication of Kuwait's fear for its security. However, Sabah Al Sabah, Kuwait's minister of foreign affairs, says: Kuwait has put this facility at the disposal of the U.S. forces for humanitarian reasons.

Meanwhile, U.S. sources, including THE WASHINGTON POST, state that this floating base is being put at the disposal of the United States within Kuwaiti territorial waters. Even though Kuwaiti officials hastily denied this, news sources consider the quick denial by the Kuwaiti officials a result of the reverbrations of this immense disgrace. In the meantime, news agencies have reported that one of these floating naval bases was hit by a missile. However, Kuwaiti military officials denied this and stated that the missile exploded in waters close to shore. In any case, the situation proves the growing Kuwaiti helplessness, along with its increasing dependence on the United States.

There is no doubt that this trend of increasing cooperation with international imperialism will not have good results for Kuwait. What is certain is that Arab reaction, which has suffered a mortal wound together with the United States from the victory of the Islamic Revolution, is terrified about an Iranian victory in the war and at this point in time has become the base for the aggressions of U.S. imperialism in a bid to find a solution.

Since the beginnings of Islam, reactionary noblemen and the declining Arab aristocrocy have been opposed to Islam and have created many obstacles for this liberating philosophy. The messenger of God—blessings be upon him and all his scion—and his allies were continuously the target of attacks by agents of this tribal nobility while in Mecca. The economic embargo imposed against the followers of Abu Talib and the plot to assassinate his holiness and other such matters were approved during the debates of the noblemen of Mecca. Moreover, the Badr war was the first classic, organized war between Muslims and infidels and the first instance of battle between Arab reactionaries and noblemen and the masses following the cause. Abu Jahl and Abu Sofyan were elements of this declining tribal aristocrocy. This policy did not exist only while the messenger was alive. In fact, following his death the nobility and materialists stood against the pure followers of true Islam with more determination.

God willing, with the help of the Almighty, the powerful arm of Islam will crush the massive and expansive dam of the United States, of Arab reaction, and Iraq and not only will the Persian Gulf of Iran become the graveyard of Reagan but also the graveyard of the natural enemy of Islam—the declining and reactionary Arab nobility who are obstructing Islam in the large and international Islamic homeland as well. God willing.

Commentary Says War Will Be Won on Battlefield

LD141346 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1240 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Political commentary from the "Holy Defense" program]

[Text] Who will decide the fate of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran: Saddam, Reagan, or Gorbachev? Certainly none of them. Although by launching the ill-fated aggression against the sacred boundaries of the Islamic Republic, Saddam started the imposed war, at the moment he is not, however, in a position to have any effect on the course of the war. The loss of initiative and his being caught in a dead-end situation are two of the main problems that presage unavoidable defeat for Saddam, along with difficulties such as the shortage of capable human resources and a lack of fighting morale.

Therefore, the Ba'thist regime of Iraq has absolutely no hope of victory, because that is only a false dream. Under present conditions, Baghdad will be quite satisfied with not being defeated, because she has no hope whatsoever of winning or achieving a victory. Consequently, a cease-fire and allowing the war Iraq started to end without a definite outcome is the Ba'thist regime's most desired option.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union still continues its flood of weapons and military equipment toward Baghdad. Despite the Kremlin's wishes, it is not able to play an active role in the course of the imposed war. Therefore, the continuation of a neutral stance—if Moscow can adopt one—would be the best option, as it would provide the Soviet Union with the greatest benefit and not involve the Soviets further in a war whose initiator is daily leaning further toward the West.

However, the position adopted by the West, led by the United States, is one that requires a great deal of scrutiny. They know full well that the chance of the Ba'thist regime's achieving victory is about zero. As a clear outcome to the war would be completely contrary to their interests, they, by mobilizing all their capabilities, are trying to find a way to end the imposed war without achieving any definite outcome. To exert political pressure to isolate the Islamic Republic, to impose military pressure through their growing military presence in the Persian Gulf, and to threaten to impose an economic and arms embargo against Iran are steps all aimed at achieving this end, namely, to force us to accept an end to the war without achieving any definite outcome.

However, all these futile attempts have finally ended in failure and disappointed Western political leaders. On the other hand, with the continuation of the holy defense and the Islamic Republic's emphasis on its principled positions on the need to identify and punish the aggressor, it has been made abundantly clear that, contrary to most other crisis-ridden regions of the world—which are usually under the domination of one of the arrogant world powers—the return of peace and security to the tense Persian Gulf region will not be possible through decisions made in Moscow or Washington. Therefore, despite all the noisy propaganda from the East and West, the eyes of the world's realistic political and military analysts have turned toward the only place that can make the final decision about the outcome of the imposed war and decide its fate, namely, Islamic Iran, an Iran that, with the extensive mobilization of its forces, is starting widescale and epicmaking operations. These series of operations will in the near future make it plain that the fate of the imposed war will be decided only on the battlefronts and only by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yes, we will decide the fate of the war, which has been imposed on us, on the battlefields.

Official on Decision To Send Clergy to Fronts

LD142007 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Aba'i, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Islamic Publicity Office, has granted an interview to our correspondent in Qom. He outlined the steps taken by the Qom seminary to organize schedules for the dispatch of clergymen to the battlefields. Referring to the sensitive role of the clergy on the battlefields, he pointed out: In accordance with the new policy of the war authorities of the Islamic Republic and following the announcement of the Supreme War Support Council on drafting a schedule for the dispatch of the selfless popular forces, the Qom seminary has set up a headquarters for the rotational dispatch of the clergy to the battlefields under the supervision of the city's Friday imam. At present, according to a coordinated plan, 1,200 clergymen will be dispatched each month from all the seminaries in the country. It was also arranged that each school of the seminary should close for a month at a time to enable its lecturers and students to go to the fronts.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Aba'i pointed out: Since the start of the imposed war, the militant clergymen have always stood beside their fighting brothers on the battlefields, and so far more than 40,000 clergymen from Qom Seminary have been dispatched to the battlefields by the Islamic Publicity Office and the headquarters for the dispatch of missionaries—this is in addition to the figures announced for the provinces of Azarbayjan, Esfahan, and others.

'Aba'i discussed the method of dispatching the clergymen to the battlefields: Three programs will be implemented in the Qom seminary to dispatch the committed clergy. First, familiarity with combat and military techniques and tactics will be organized by the clergy mobilization headquarters and training centers. Second, after completing their combat courses, the clergymen will be dispatched to the fronts as combat forces in the 83d Brigade of Imam Sadeq. Third, missionaries will be dispatched to the fronts by the Islamic Publicity Office and the headquarters for the dispatch of missionaries.

He added: In general, it is particularly important to have the clergymen at the fronts so that our brave fighters can become more familiar with social, moral, and religious issues, the interpretation of the Koran and Nahj al-Balaghah [Imam 'Ali's book] during their rest periods. According to many of our commanders, the presence of a clergyman among the fighting forces is more effective than several tanks.

In conclusion, he said: Since the start of the imposed war up to the end of Shahrivar this year [22 September 1987], the committed clergy of the seminaries of our Islamic homeland have presented about 6,471 wounded, 1,757 martyrs, 223 MIA's, and 58 POW's to Islam and the Islamic Revolution.

SAIRI Official Outlines Operations

LD141528 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—A top official of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) outlined the Iraqi people's freedom struggle against the ruling Ba'thist regime and the role of Iraqi Mojahedin in this campaign, in a televised conference here Monday.

Abu Meitham [name as received], head of the SAIRI Basij (mobilization) unit called on all Iraqi refugees residing in Iran to enrol at Basij bases throughout the country for necessary military training and subsequent despatch to the battlefields.

The SAIRI official, referring to the escalation of popular uprisings against the Baghdad regime, said that the ever-increasing number of Iraqi deserters has now become a serious problem for the Baghdad regime.

At present, Abu Meitham said there are 40,000 deserters in Baghdad, 13,000 in Karbala', and thousands of others in the southern marshlands of the country.

The Iraqi capital has now become a site of frequent street clashes and revolutionary executions of Ba'thist mercenaries by Iraqi Muslims fighting the ruling regime, he said.

The SAIRI official said that according to information reaching from inside the Iraqi Army ranks itself, the Ba'thist regime due to acute manpower shortage, has ordered all its military units not to release conscripts at the end of their military service. Thus, he added military service in Iraq is a life-long affair.

Iraqi Mojahedin, affiliated to SAIRI dealt heavy blows on the Ba'thist regime in northern Iraq, in league with Kurdish peshmergas last year, said Abu Meitham adding that these operations herald other major offensives deep inside northern Iraq.

Elsewhere in the interview, Abu Meitham, referring to the recent call of the Supreme War Support Council for further contribution of people to the war efforts, said that SAIRI recently sent four combat battalions and a company of Iraqi ulema residing in Iran to the war fronts.

Abu Meitham said that SAIRI recently formed a brigade of tribesmen living in southern Iraq, called "'Ansar al-Husayn (A.S.)" [name as received] which, he said, is fighting Ba'thist soldiers along the southern frontlines.

IRGC, Kurds Attack Saddam's 'Private Retreat'

LD141830 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—The northern Iraqi town of Sar-Sang [placename as received], in the suburbs of Dahuk city, was attacked by Muslim combatants of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces on Dec. 12.

Announcing the above, the General Command of the three forces of the IRGC said in a communique that over 300 Iraqi soldiers were killed and dozens of others wounded in the course of the operations launched some 130 kms deep inside Iraqi soil. Major parts of Iraqi installations and military equipment were also destroyed, it added.

Saddam's (Hussein) private retreat called 'Qasr-e Malik' (King's Palace) was attacked and set afire by the combatants from five sides, said the communique.

Troop concentration site of commando brigade of Iraq's Fifth Corps based in Sar-Sang garrison was demolished by the Muslim combatants.

The Muslim forces returned safely to their bases after carrying out their victorious operations, concluded the communique.

Greek Tanker Attacked in Gulf of Oman

LD151114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] According to an AP report, shipping sources in the Persian Gulf have announced: This morning a Greek tanker with a capacity of 102,088 tonnes was attacked by gunboats in the coastal waters of the Gulf of Oman. These sources said the Greek tanker, after being loaded at Ra's al-Tanurah terminal in Saudi Arabia, was moving out of Persian Gulf waters.

Communique No 3,050 on Attacks Near Sumar

LD141615 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily struck Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in heights overlooking Sumar, western fronts, at 12:50 hours local time (09:20 GMT) Monday inflicting substantial losses on enemy men and equipment. All fighters returned safely to bases.

The Joint Staff Communique No 3050 said Iranian artillery fire pounded enemy positions on all fronts during the past 24 hours inflicting heavy damage on the Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

Muslim combatants suppressed enemy patrol units in operational regions of Panjwin, overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, Mehran and Yebis Sunday.

Enemy engineering operations and movement of motorized columns on Badrah, Zurbatiyah, Kani-Sheykh and Nahr 'Anbar axes were also contained Sunday.

Nepal

King, Queen Depart on 'Private' Visit to India

BK111512 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Their majesties the king and queen left as scheduled for Gwalior, India, today on a private visit to grace the wedding of the daughter of Indian Minister of State for Railways Madhav Rao Scindia with the son of Dr Karan Singh, at the invitation of Mr Scindia and Dr Karan Singh. Their majesties were seen off by chairman of the Council of Royal Representative, His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, at the VIP lounge of Tribhuvan International Airport. Present on the occasion to see off their majesties were the prime minister, the chief justice, the chairman of the Rashtriya Panchayat and Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee, the chairman of Raj Sabha Standing Committee, and other distinguished persons.

Return Following Day

BK121455 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Their majesties the king and queen returned to the capital today after a private visit to Gwalior, India, to grace the wedding of the daughter of Indian Minister of State for Railways Madhav Rao Scindia with the son of Dr Karan Singh, at the invitation of Mr Scindia and Dr Singh. Their majesties were accorded a warm welcome by His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah at the VIP [word indistinct] of the Tribhuvan International Airport. Also present to welcome their majesties at the airport were the prime minister, chief justice, Rashtriya Panchayat chairman, Raj Sabha Standing Committee chairman, and other distinguished persons. Their majesties had left for Gwalior yesterday.

Anti-Indian Protests Banned; 200 Arrested

BK131618 Hong Kong AFP in English 1558 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 13 (AFP)—The Nepalese authorities Sunday banned planned anti-India protests and arrested about 200 pro-leftist students, youths and activists of the banned Nepal Communist Party. Various leftist groups including the Communist Party, Civic Rights Protection Committee, National Peoples' Front and National Democratic Unity Front called the demonstrations. They have denounced India for allegedly allowing the expulsion of more than 100,000 people of Nepalese origin from their homes in Meghalaya State by extremist groups and for the seizure at Calcutta airport of 20.7 kilograms of gold savings from British Gurkha soldiers in transit November 16.

The leftist groups have also demanded cancellation of the 1950 peace and friendship treaty between Nepal and India, describing it as "unequal". Under the treaty, citizens of each country can live and work in the other.

Communist Party sources said that, in spite of the ban, there had been short demonstrations in Kathmandu and police had broken one up. A senior official of the Home (Interior) Ministry told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE pro-leftist activists were arrested in order to avoid ugly incidents in the capital and he indicated they might be released soon.

Pakistan

Commentary on U.S.-USSR Talks on Afghanistan

BK120655 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Commentary by Hussain Haqqani]

[Text] The summit meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev has ended on an optimistic note. Both leaders made considerable progress in identifying issues affecting world security and agreed to continue the process which would ease global tension.

In an era when weapons of mass destruction have raised the [words indistinct] of threat of international hostility and the nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers alone are sufficient to destroy the earth many times over, any step toward building a process of peace is a positive one. The ability of the two superpowers to negotiate the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty has demonstrated the potential for success inherent in the process of discussion. One can only hope for the sake of mankind that this process will continue without major obstacles and will eventually make the world a safer place to live. It is important to remember, however, that the success of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit is only a relative one. It has come after several years of the new cold war which undermined the process of detente started in a similarly optimistic environment during the early 1970's. Compared with the hostile atmosphere of the early 1980's, even small achievements in East-West understanding appear major successes and this is the framework in which one must see the summit results.

The two heads of governments made less progress in agreeing to a common approach to regional issues than they did in determining broad principles for lessening global tension. After the summit, President Reagan expressed disappointment over failure in resolving differences with Mr Gorbachev on key regional questions, such as Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, and the Iran-Iraq war. He said that there can be no satisfaction in failure to end the conflict in these key areas which are taking a heavy toll on lives and imposing a heavy burden on East-West relations. The U.S. president acknowledged that the two countries have fallen far apart on regional issues, though he noted that differences were expressed bluntly, and he rightly pointed out that both superpowers had to press ahead with a search for political solutions aimed at bringing peace and freedom for people everywhere, including Afghanistan and Cambodia.

Mr Gorbachev was a bit more upbeat than President Reagan when he observed that there was a possibility that mutually satisfactory solutions could be identified for important regional conflicts. But he hardened his stance on Afghanistan when he rejected a call for withdrawal of Soviet troops, saying the international community wanted to settle what he termed this internal bloody conflict. The Soviet leader's pronouncement negated recent positive signals in favor of a political solution of Afghanistan's tragic situation.

While he called it an internal conflict and termed the world community's concern for Afghanistan's independence as interference in that country's affairs, Mr Gorbachev failed to acknowledge that the marching of Soviet troops into Afghanistan 9 years ago was the major act of foreign intervention which destroyed this Islamic country's peace and freedom. The international community has repeatedly supported the Afghan people's right of self-determination free of coercion from outside forces It is time the Soviet Union heeded this call and removed the stigma of occupying a nonaligned country from its (?name). The decision to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan would be a major indicator of the superpowers commitment to world peace and would almost certainly expedite the process of the new detente that has begun with the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Benazir Bhutto on Nuclear, Foreign Policies

BK131015 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Dec 87 pp 1, 8

[By Minhaj Barna; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Karachi, Dec 1—Ms Benazir Bhutto PPP Co-Chairperson said here today that her father lost his life as well as government for Pakistan's nuclear programme and that for the precise reason his government was destabilised by a superpower (the United States).

She also accused President Gen Ziaul Haq of sabotaging Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme by cancelling the Pak-French agreement for the reprocessing plant." By cancelling the agreement Gen Ziaul Haq removed the cover and exposed the real programme which could not be pursued now.

Ms Bhutto was replying to questions after delivering her address on security environment and our foreign policy at the Institute of International Affairs this afternoon.

The PPP leader in her prepared address covered all aspects of our foreign relations and strongly criticised their handling by the military government and tht present regime. She questioned the ever-spiralling defence expenditure and the way the security has been made synonymous with acquisition of weapons.

A questioner asked her whether she would agree to the thesis that the PPP government was removed in 1977 because of its nuclear policy and 'US machinations'.

Ms Bhutto reminded the audience that it was her father, the then Prime Minister, who himself declared on the floor of the National Assembly that his government was being destabilised on account of nuclear power programme. She said it was false to allege that Ms Bhutto lost interest in the pursuit of nuclear power. "He lost his life and his government for nuclear power and the country lost democracy because of it", she stressed.

The PPP leader said the reprocessing plant was a cover for real programme but "it is no state secret to tell you that Gen Zia sabotaged it as he removed the cover by cancelling the Pak-French agreement in a year's time after he took over".

In her prepared address on the issue of nuclear policy she said Pakistan's need for nuclear energy is evident and indispensable but Pakistan at the same time is firmly opposed to nuclear proliferation both as a matter of principle and because nuclear proliferation constitutes a direct and immediate threat to Pakistan's security. She, however, opposed unilateral and unreciprocated steps by Pakistan and informed that nuclear nonproliferation on a regional basis was proposed by Pakistan as early as 1975.

When asked why she was shifting from her pro-Washington policy to pro-Moscow policy she laughed and said so far PPP workers were accusing her of being pro-American, but now some were calling her pro-Moscow. She said she was neither pro-Moscow nor pro-Washington but pro-Pakistan.

Replying to a questioner who wanted to know as to when she expected the democratic rule to return, she said she could not predict but history in Third World showed that a change usually followed a war or a debacle. But at present she would not like to do anything which could endanger the security of the country because of the situation on the Indian and Afghan borders. On the one hand we want to defuse the tension on borders and on the other we are "pushing on" the process of politicisation as is evident from our decision to take part in the local bodies polls", she observed.

One questioner wanted to know as to why she failed to mention the Kashmir issue in her address. Ms Bhutto said she was referring to immediate threats such as the occupation of Siachen Glaciers. But that does not mean that she has forgotten it or compromised on it. She said the Simla Agreement provided the framework for a settlement of the issue.

Earlier in her address she said under the military rule Pakistan's role in the world forums has diminished and the foreign policy was made 'undimensional and inflexible'. According to her important changes and realignment of forces are taking place in the world which will bring about a fundamental transformation in the pattern of international relations and the structure developed in the period after World War Two.

She said that the agreements between USSR and USA now in the offing, cannot fail to have a profound effect on the relations between the superpowers and the future course on the nuclear arms race between them. She welcomed a new opportunity for an Afghan settlement in General Secretary Gorbachev's plans to restructure and open up the Soviet system and his anxiety to get rid of the running sore of Afghanistan.

On relations with India she criticised the rising hegemony of India (referred to sending of Indian Troops to Sri Lanka) but balanced it with her "determination to revive the spirit of Simla". "The people of Pakistan and India are not destined to be enemies, they are not condemned for wasting their resources and energies in meaningless conflict and rivalry", she said.

Replying to a question about increasing "secessionist trends" in Sind she said their upholders were being patronised by the present rulers. In relation to India she said we cannot accept a big brother role for our neighbour.

Ms Bhutto said the greatest need is to redefine and reaffirm the basic and fundamental aims of national policy and to strengthen national concensus. The three principles and permanent goals of national policy according to her are: 1) To safeguard the territorial integrity and independance of the nation. 2) To strengthen national cohesion and institutions and 3) To develop the country's economic and social potentials, raise the standard of living of the people and bring about social justice in accordance with the tenets of Islam among the people and to reform the country's institutions in line with the needs of the modern age. The three objectives, she said, are intricately and closely interlinked.

"Our frontiers cannot be secure if internal dissensions and divisions undermine the foundations of national unity. National cohesion cannot be fostered if democratic institutions are subverted. A nation like Pakistan, created by an act of self-determination, can survive and flourish only by continued and renewed concensus," she added.

The Chairman of the Institute, Gen Umar earlier welcomed the guest speaker.

Sri Lanka

Clashes Between IPKF, Tamils Continue

'Suspected' LTTE Members Freed

BK121652 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English
1530 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The PKF [Peacekeeping Force] today released 70 suspected LTTE detenues, including 7 women. The release took place at Manipay, south Chavakchcheri, (Nelipalalai) and Vaddukkodai in Jaffna Peninsula. Four more hardcore LTTE cadres surrendered to the PKF at Araly area in Jaffna today. Another nine LTTE men were apprehended in Gurunagar and the (Kanaradai) areas. The AIR correspondent, Perumal, says the Jaffna municipality today restored full water supply to four major areas.

41 LTTE Members Captured

BK130810 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0800 GMT 13 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 13 (LANKA PUWATH)—Forty-one LTTE terrorists were captured yesterday by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Jaffna. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that 35 LTTE cadres were captured at Atchuvely while 6 were apprehended during a search operation at Araly north. A report from Batticaloa states that IPKF had thrown a dragnet to apprehend the LTTE Batticaloa town leader, code named "Litta" who, according to intelligence reports, was hiding in the vicinity of the Batticaloa airport. Detonators and explosives were seized by IPKF in a raid on terrorists' hideouts at Navatkuly, Jaffna, yesterday.

A senior LTTE commander, code name Capt. Bharat, who was wounded during an LTTE clash with the IPKF in the Kokkuvil/Konduvil area in Jaffna committed suicide last Friday by swallowing a cyanide capsule. Bharat was reported to have been controlling operations of 5 LTTE squads, each comprising of 15 cadres in the Moolai area in Jaffna. The IPKF had also launched operations to clear pockets of LTTE terrorists in Valachchenai, Vadamuna (off Kiran), and Karunakuda where the inhabitants were being terrorised by LTTE cadres led by [name indistinct] and Deelappan.

A report from Vavuniya states 2 LTTE terrorists were kidnapped by TELO along with their weapons—two T-56 guns, six 38-grenades and a walkie-talkie. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that at Mannar the LTTE had kidnapped two Muslims—Jihan Casim and a friend accompanying him. A report from Trincomalee states that LTTE terrorists hijacked a truck at Tampalagamam.

Landmine Kills IPKF Soldier

BK141147 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1140 GMT 14 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 14 (LANKA PUWATH)—One Indian soldier was killed and four wounded when an Indian peacekeeping force (IPKF) patrol ran into a LTTE terrorist landmine explosion last night at Akkaraipattu in the Ampara District, eastern Sri Lanka official sources told LANKA PUWATH. They said the vehicle in which the IPKF patrol was traveling about 1900 hours (local time) yesterday, was badly damaged.

More Explosives Seized in University Raid

BK151020 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1005 GMT 15 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 15 (LANKA PUWATH)—The police have seized explosives, implements for the manufacture of bombs, subversive posters and police type uniforms during a raid on the Sri Jayawardenepura University at Gangodanila, Nugegoda, about 17 kilometres from Colombo. The uniforms were found in a manhole. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that last Sunday's raid by Superintendent of Police S. Samarsekere and the headquarters inspector Mirihana police, S. Ediriwickreme followed a tip off given the police by a member of the public.

They said that although the university was closed on December 10, a number of students had remained for a further two days and according to intelligence reports a large quanity of weapons and explosives had been moved out of the university premises following the closure order. However, when the police raided the Sri Jayawardenepura University campus, they found five kilograms of gun powder, five kilograms of wire nails, 100 used bulbs for the manufacture of Molotov cocktails (petrol bombs) and arrack stoppers used in the manufacture of small bombs (known locally as 'duppi'). A stock of subversive literature including posters was also seized from one of the rooms of the students.

Meanwhile, a report from Galle, southern Sri Lanka states that the residence of Police Inspector Attanayake had been fired at in the early hours of yesterday morning. No one was injured. Police are in search of a suspect named Ajith. Earlier, last Wednesday night, a reserve police constable guarding the inspector's home was killed by subversives.

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